# **HALESOWEN**

# 



Thursday, February 27, 2014

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## **Charity raids**

Mean thieves hit group three times Page 2



## **Beard battle**

Hairy ale lovers look for the best whiskers



## **Fame returns**

Musical lives forever with a major revamp



## Victim's relief as sentence is upheld

A JILTED boyfriend jailed for 19 years for pouring petrol over his ex-girlfriend

petrol over his ex-girlfriend and setting her alight has lost an appeal against his length of sentence. Louise Pilkington has spoken of her relief that Da-mion Sheldon, 43, this week lost his challenge at the Court of Appeal in London. Sheldon poured netrol

Court of Appeal in London.
Sheldon poured petrol
through the letter box at
the 32-year-old's Rowley
Regis home and then turned
her into a fireball in December 2012. She suffered
severe burns. A girl aged
nine escaped the house fire
and firefighters rescued a
13-month-old girl.
Sheldon, of Russells Hall

13-month-old girl.
Sheldon, of Russells Hall
Road, Dudley, admitted
reckless arson and found
guilty of attempted murder.
He was jailed for a total of
19 years at Wolverhampton
Crown Court in August.
Judges Lady Justice

Crown Court in August.
Judges Lady Justice
Sharp, Mr Justice Sweeney
and Judge Stephen Kramer
QC said the term was deserved. Judge Kramer
explained: "These were
horrifying offences which
clearly called for a lengthy
custodial sentence."
Miss Pilkington said:
"When I heard he was appealing I was shocked. I
can't believe he had the audacity to do that. It scares
me to think he could be
released — I'm just full of
relief."

## **Harrier wins** heart race

HUNDREDS of runners pounded the streets of Dud-ley at an annual charity event to support a cardiac rehabilitation unit.

The annual five-mile Action Heart run took place aid of the charity on Sunday with 440 in the race which started and finished at Russells Hall Hospital.

The winner was Martin Williams, of Tipton Harri-ers, in a time of 26 minutes and 33 seconds, while the fastest woman was Melanie James in 31 minutes 54 sec-

# THREE IN COURT OR ROOF 'CON'

A PENSIONER suffering cancer has described how he was conned into having £2,400 of work carried out to his roof and then left to pick up a bill for damage caused by the roofers.

Brothers Jason Charles and Dean Powers and Powers' son Jack Powers, of PRS Roofing, are accused of misleading Maurice and Janet Rudge and failing to carry out the expected standard of work. A jury at a trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court this week heard how the couple, of Blackberry Lane in Halesowen, were quoted for repair work to their chimneys and associated scaffolding.

The prosequition claim the interval of the house need to be filled in the process of the house need to be filled in the interval of the process of the house need to be filled in the interval of the process of the house need to be filled in the interval of the process of the house need to be filled in the interval of the process of t

and associated scatfolding.

The prosecution claim the pair were misled over the condition of their chimneys and were overcharged by £1,730 for the work in 2011.

#### Upset

Mr Rudge, aged 77, was unable to appear in court for health reasons. Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting, read out a statement on his behalf.

He said: "I am very upset with what has taken place and I feel that this trader and I feel that this trader has taken place and I feel that this trader has taken advantage of my age and health condition as they kept rising the price and not completing work.

"I am not sure whether the two chimneys were in a dangerous condition as Jason made out to be."

Mr Rudge said they repeatedly asked the firm to return to complete the job over the next four months. He continued: "The problems that are still outstanding from this work are slates disturbed, requiring imme-

disturbed, requiring immediate attention to avoid fur-ther internal damage both

ther internal admage both to the properties and the public walking by.
"The television aerial was replaced as a result of the damaged caused by PRS Roofing which subsequently cost us £75 to repair. The

scaffolding holes in the bricks which on the side of the house need to be filled in "

Mr Jackson said: "We say that they used the pretence of being a legitimate busi-ness as a front to conning

"They conned them to have work done by telling them that the chimneys were dangerous and unsafe. If that wasn't bad enough, they did a rubbish job."

they did a rubbish job."

Mr Jackson said brothers Dean Powers, 46, of Rainscar, Wilnecote, and Charles, 42, of Birmingham Street, Halesowen, ran the business. Jack Powers, 21, of Cherry Tree Walk, Tamworth, worked for them for £50 a day.

one charge of participating in a fraudulent business. Charles is charged with five counts of fraud.

Charles and Dean Powers also face a charge in relation to a flat roof at a house in Fullwood Avenue, Hale-

The trio deny all charges.

## Hole-in-one world record hope



One direction - Shaun Messer, right, with fellow Dudley Swiller Craig Biddulph

GOLFER Shaun Messer, from Tividale, was on an annual golfing trip in Thai-land with the Dudley Swillers when he managed the amazing shot, on the parthree 17th hole of the Red Mountain course in Phuket.

Now it is thought be could be to be the could be the could

Now it is thought he could have hit a world-record shot, with the longest putt recorded being 125 yards by Fergus Muir in 2001 at St Andrews in Scotland.

Andrews in Scotland.
The 53-year-old fire safety officer from West Avenue said: "I took my first shot and it wasn't a very good one. I hadn't been playing very well and it fell short of the green.

#### Funny

"I was that disgusted that I said to one of my partners, just jokingly, I could have hit that with one of my putters'. So he told me to have a go. I let the other two guys tee off, and I told my caddy to get a ball and my putter out of my bag. She looked at me a bit funny. "I put it on the tee and

looked at me a bit funny.
"I put it on the tee and
I just hit it – and I hit it
perfectly. It went straight
onto the green and rolled
and rolled. Everyone was
saying it was going to go in.
I wasn't sure, I thought it
might be lying behind the
pin but when we got onto
the green it was in the hole."
He now plans to contact.

the green it was in the hole."
He now plans to contact
Guinness World Records
to see whether he can go
in the history books. Despite the fact it could be a
world beater, the 157-yard
shot didn't count towards
his score as he had already
played the other ball on the
same hole.

## Housing rent rise attacked by Tories

A HIKE in rent rates for council tenants in Dudley has been condemned for hitting cash-strapped families.

The rent rise forms part of a project to spend £206 million on improving thousands of council homes in

sands of council homes in

sands of council homes in the borough.

Dudley Council agreed to increase rents by 1.5 per cent and approve the multi-million scheme at a meeting this week. The rise works out as an average of £1.22 a week from April but is lower than last year's increase of 4.6 per cent.

crease of 4.6 per cent. Conservative councillors Conservative councillors say the Labour-run council is imposing an increase which could have been avoided.

Tory housing spokesman Councillor Bob James said: "Under the last Labour government, councils were required to increase rents."

overnment, councils were required to increase rents until there was parity with the private rented sector. The coalition government have now said that there is no longer a requirement for us to do this. Therefore a rent increase this year could be avoided."

Housing chief Councillor Steve Walthor referred to a consultation with the board of the Dudley Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Associations (DFTRA) when the board had accepted the rise. "They are the ones who

rise. "They are the ones who I would listen too. If they

### Four hurt in car accident

THREE men and a nine year-old boy were injured in a crash involving two cars

a crash involving two cars and a parked van.

The collision happened on the Halesowen Road, Netherton, at about 5.25pm on Sunday.

A Mazda crashed into the parked van before hitting an oncoming Renault Megane, in which the boy was a massenger. passenger. The Mazda driver had

been pulled out by paramedics when fire crews arrived but they had to cut the roof off to free a passenger.

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# Wildlife and flowers set to flourish Council's

DARK and overgrown woodlands

DARK and overgrown woodlands will be transformed into colourful wildlife havens thanks to a \$200,000 cash grant. Money has been given to the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country.

Natural England has handed over the cash after being impressed by the way the trust works with communities to improve its woodlands.

Milking Bank in Dudley and Row-

benefit.

Birmingham's Cannon Hill Park
will also be improved thanks to the
£200,000 cash injection.

Under the project dense areas of
woodland will be cleared and new
trees and plants added.

ment area programme manager for Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust, said: "This is fan-tastic opportunity to make better places for people and wildlife right across Birmingham and the Black Country by creating species-rich woodlands from species-poor plan-tations

Bosses say they hope to create 'attractive areas for people to enjoy and for wildlife to flourish'. "The extra money is a real demonstration of confidence in the brilliant urban nature conservation

who is involved in these projects should be proud of what they're achieving because the impact of it will be felt for years to come."

Bluebells, wood anemone and primroses will be among the plants and flowers used in thinned-down

areas of woodlands Volunteers will also be drafted in help to carry out the clearing and planting work.

A NEW smartphone app designed to give people the knowledge and confidence to support someone with de-mentia was being launched with a theatre performance in Halesowen this week.

app for

advice on dementia

in Halesowen this week.
The mobile application
has been produced by Dudley Council's dementia gateway service in partnership
with community interest
company, Equip 4 Change.
People will be able to
download the app from the
council's website to their
smart phone or other device.

#### Priority

It was being launched during a special performance of Finding Joy, a play performed by mask and mime company Vamos on yesterday evenign at the Cornbow Hall.

Cornbow Hall.
Councillor Dave Branwood, cabinet member for adult, community and housing services on the council, said: "Supporting people with dementia and their families is a key priority for the council. As the number of people with dementia is predicted to rise in coming years, our new app can ing years, our new app can provide information about its effects and the support available locally."

## Blaze broke out at pub

A MAN was taken to hospi-tal after a fire broke out in a kitchen at a Stourbridge

pub.
Fire fighters were called
to the blaze at the Royal
Exchange Pub on Enville
Street just after midnight
on Saturday.
When they arrived they
discovered a fire in a kitchen
in the residential area of the
premises.

A man who investigated the fire had to be treated for smoke inhalation and was taken to hospital as a pre-

The pub, which is a mid-terraced property, wasn't open at the time.

### Raging brew

BREW talking to me? A beer in tribute to movie star Robert De Niro is going on sale in pubs run by Holden's Brewery.

The Woodsetton brewery is releasing a different more

is releasing a different mov ie-themed ale each month. March's brew, Aging Bull, is a 4.8 per cent strength beer

# Special' protection n public transport

TWELVE special constables have been hired to patrol buses, trains and trams in the West Midlands following the murder of Halesowen

schoolgirl Christina Edkins.

The recruits taken on by West Midlands Police and British Transport Police form part of the Safer Travel team and will be the first 'Specials' dedicated solely to policing the region's public transport.

Sixteen-year-old Chris-tina Edkins was stabbed to

tina Edkins was stabbed to death by paranoid schizo-phrenic Phillip Simelane as she sat on a bus in Hagley Road, Birmingham, when on her way to school in Halesowen on March 7 last

year.
Simelane has been sentenced to be detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act.
West Midlands Police and

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones vowed to make public transport safer. The 12 volunteers were sworn in as Special Con-stables at a ceremony at the Safer Travel Command Centre in Birmingham. The

men and women include

full-time students and bus

Inspector Lee Gordon, in

Inspector Lee Gordon, in charge of the Safer Travel Team, said: "I am delighted to welcome these new officers to the team. Special Constables make a valuable contribution to local policing and provide an important link with the community.

"They will provide a visible reassurance for people using trains, trams and

using trains, trams and buses, help reduce crime

financial year.

drivers.

## Our region really means business

A BLACK Country town has been ranked among the most promising investment locations in Europe.

The high ranking from FDi magazine, a Financial Times publication, has been welcomed by business

The magazine has placed Walsall seventh in the European regions for business friendliness in the small city category, appearing above Oxford and Geneva.

#### **Boost**

In a further boost, the Black Country's Local En-terprise Partnership, which brings business and council bosses together to boost the

bosses together to boost the economy, was placed 10th best in the country.

The magazine assessed a mixture of data and expert opinion to rank European cities, towns and regions in categories including busicities, towns and regions in categories including busi-ness friendliness, economic potential, cost-effective-ness, infrastructure, labour environment, and foreign investment strategy. Wayne Langford, head of Invest Black Country, said Black Country firms were

Black Country firms were producing products sold across the world.

# Raiders target charity again



Steve Tracey surveys the damage at Christians In Action in Dudley's base

A CHARITY donating white goods to the poor has been cleaned out of much-needed stock following a third burglary in a month.

buses, help reduce crime and make passengers feel safe and secure."

Mr Jones said: "I salute the Special Constables, they are remarkable people who serve the community and play a vital role in policing."

Crime on buses in the West Midlands has fallen by 67 per cent in six years to Christians in Action Genesis Project founder Steve Tracey has hit out at the 'scumbag' thieves who took the remaining items at their base in Dudley on Saturday night. The charity, based in the Thornleigh Trading Estate, had already been hit with 67 per cent in six years to 2,398 incidents in the last a ton and a half of its stock stolen the week-

"We work so hard to help people and then scumbags like this come and take everything you have. "To be honest with you, I'm at my wits' end," said Mr Tracey.

"We have a waiting list of people needing washing machines, fridges but they won't be getting what they need now."

The charity was first targeted four weeks ago when thieves cut through fencing and made off with a lawn mower and four bikes.



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#### NEWS

## **Swim to** experience some fin different

SWIMMERS can take the plunge with a new exercise class being held for the first time at a leisure centre. Staff are launching an adults' fins and hand pad-

dles swimming session at Halesowen Leisure Centre Halesowen Leisure Centre on Tuesday evenings. The half-hour sessions, which start at 6.30pm, use hand and feet swimming acces-sories to maximise water resistance and boost the workload on the affected muscles. muscles.
Bosses say the exercises

not only increase strength and flexibility, but also allow swimmers to improve their stroke and swimming technique. Councillor Stuart Turner,

Councillor Stuart Turner, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "We are running this class as a trial until March. If it proves to be popular, we will consider keeping it as a permanent fixture."

The 30-minute pay-as-you-go class, costing £4.70, will be followed by a normal public swim for up to 60

public swim for up to 60 minutes. Participants need to bring their own fins and hand paddles. For more information

call Sue Bray at Halesowen Leisure Centre on 01384 812800 or visit www.dudley. gov.uk/sport

## Dinosaurs at safari park

VISITORS to West Midland Safari Park could soon be walking with dinosaurs as the attraction plans for a huge new investment. Park bosses at Bewdley are planning to open their own version of Jurassic Park with an open-air exhibition featuring life-size

hibition featuring life-size animatronic dinosaurs. The exhibition is being designed to be created on land occupied by the Safari Express train, which will be taken pred by the train, which will be taken out of use, and is being considered by Wyre Forest planners next month,

The new attraction would also feature a 4D cinema.

## **Antiques fair**

AN antiques fair will be held in Kinver this week-end. It will take place at Kinver Community Centre on Sunday between 10am and 3.30pm. Waverley Fairs helds on patients and celholds an antiques and collectors fair on the first Sunday each month at the cen-tre, Call 0121 550 4123.

# Doing it his way lands 'Sinatra' in court NEW



Singer Jim McAllister

HE has performed across the world as a Frank Sinatra tribute act but Halesowen singer Jim McAllister certainly did something stupid at a

certainly did something stupid at a restaurant.

The 45-year-old, who has performed in Las Vegas, punched a glass table lamp and damaged a door after losing his cool because he believed he had been short-changed £100 by restaurant owner Nina Tiara. Worcester Magistrates Court heard the incident happened at the Raidout Tandoori restaurant near Rajdoot Tandoori restaurant near Droitwich on June 28.

Prosecutor Lesley Ashton said:
"He had been booked by the owner
of the restaurant. She left an envelope containing £300 for him as
payment but McAllister said he was
owed a payment of £400 for a cancelled date.
"M. Tien contains the said of t

celled date.

"Ms Tiara explained she would not be able to pay him the £400. He became agitated and said 'I'm getting done again by you'. McAllister then stormed out of the conservatory and lashed out by punching a large table lamp and then a fluted glass container.

"There was damage to the door."
Sunil Jagatir, defending, said:
"There used to be a good working relationship between them but this started to break down after several times Ms Tiara had cancelled gigs at short notice leaving him around

at short notice leaving him around £600 out of pocket.
"It came to a head this night as he was called at short notice but agreed to play with a fee of £300 being agreed. McAllister said for an extra £100 he would play to cover for previous cancelled dates. He only found £300 as payment. He was told he

could not speak to the owner and he became very angry and lashed out."
After the hearing, McAllister admitted 'losing it'. "Unfortunately as I left the restaurant I slammed the door and the glass in it smashed. I was just pushed over the edge, I have done the job for 18 years and have hundreds of happy clients."
McAllister, of Richmond Street, admitted criminal damage and was given a 12-month conditional discharge. He was ordered to pay £670 compensation with £85 costs and

compensation with £85 costs and £15 victim surcharge.

#### Search is on for the best taxi firm

NOMINATIONS are being collected for the taxi version of the Oscars taking place in Dudley.

People are being asked to be the driving force by putting forward their favourite taxi firm serving the horousity. the borough.

The Taxi Base of the

The Taxi Base of the Year award is an annual competition, run by Dud-ley Council, to celebrate good service provided by the borough's hackney car-riage and private hire taxi firms. This is the second year the competition has year the competition has been run.

#### A diet dilemma with zoo youngster

with zoo youngster
IT'S not unusual for
youngsters not to be keen
on fruit and vegetables but
a four-month-old rhea at
Dudley Zoo called Boomer
only likes lettuce.
Keepers are trying to entice him with a wider menu
and wean the hand-reared
bird off his baby food.
Armed with platefuls
of nutritious sliced apple,
carrot, cabbage and flaked
maize, keepers are trying
to encourage him. Keeper
Ben Vanes said: "We'll
continue working with him
every day until he's eating
everything we give him."

#### Recruits call on university 'Army'

STUDENTS and staff are being urged to sign up to a new army platoon which is being set up by the Univer-sity of Wolverhampton. The educational estab-lishment is to become one

of the first in the country to offer army training. It will see those who sign up made members of the Army Reserve, formally known as the Territorial

#### Pie Factory in bid to expand

MAD O'Rourke's Pie Fac-tory pub, a long-estab-lished landmark in the Black Country, is set to ex-pand in a bid to cope with increasing demand and soaring customer num-bers, it has emerged.

Pete Towler, who stepped in to buy the site back from administrators in 2011, has now submitted expansion plans.

#### Wedding show

THE National Wedding Show is at the NEC from tomorrow to Sunday. The exhibition is ex-pected to attract more than 6,000 brides-to-be and fea-tures more than 250 wed-ding specialists.

# School meal prices are set to rise by ten pence

to increase the price of school meals in Dudley because of rising costs of food, labour and fuel bills.

From April 24 the price charged for a meal in all primary and special schools across the borough could increase by 10p, from £1.90 to £2.

The cost of individually priced food items in primary and secondary schools will also rise under proposals due to be considered next week. Cabine member for children's services and life.

## fund more free meals for pupils

DUDLEY council has re-ceived a cash grant to help it provide free meals for

youngsters. From September all chil-

From September all chidren at key stage one level will be entitled to free meals. The council has received £855,000 from the Govern-ment to enable it to carry out work needed ahead of the scheme being launched in the borough. in the borough.

#### **Appreciation**

Appreciation
Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for children, libraries and lifelong learning, said: "I would like to express my appreciation to the council officers and school staff who are working hard to ensure that we will be ready for this.

"We have been allocated £855,000 towards the capital requirements to provide for this.
"This money will go towards things that must be purchased or physical alterations that must be made,"

ations that must be made.
"The funding will be allo-

cated to specific projects in due course."

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Pizza's

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Pasta

dren's services and life-long learning Councillor Tim Crumpton said: "Food prices are going up everyone knows that so we have little choice but to increase the price of school meals.

#### Limit

"However what we have tried to do is limit the increase as much as possible. The last thing we want to do is price children and their families out of having a school meal which is why the increase is what is. "It is unfortunate we have to raise prices but there is little choice."

The price of an adult meal

The price of an adult meal will also go up from £3 to £3.15 as part of the move.

The increase will bring in an estimated £200,000 per annum which the authority says will help it cover the costs involves.

Councillor Crumpton said the amount heing asked for

Councillor Crumpton said the amount being asked for was in line with other local authorities. The increase is based on a 5.2 per cent rise, which includes inflation to cover increases in food and overheads.

Schools have delegated budgets and they have the option to implement their own pricing structure if they

own pricing structure if they

Sandwell Council and Birmingham City Council charge £2 for school meals.

Burgers

Buy One Pizza

Get One

# Mayor toasts volunteers with a cuppa



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch and his wife Heather hosting local volunteers and award sponsors

VOLUNTEERS from across Dudley were invited to afternoon tea with the Mayor as a special thanks for their award-winning work.

award-winning work.
Fourteen winners of last year's
Dudley Volunteer Awards were given
a tour of the Mayor's Parlour before
enjoying a cuppa with Councillor Alan
Finch to celebrate their achievements.
They were also presented, with

They were also presented with framed photographs from the awards evening

Among the winners was Christine

Lindsay award for her long service to volunteering as a Friend of Priory Park.

Fourteen volunteers accepted the Mayor's invitation to his Chamber.

Mayor's invitation to his Chamber, including Brett Harris of Blaze hair-dressing salon in Kingswinford, who picked up the inaugural Business Supporting the Community award.

Other guests included 2013 Dudley Young Volunteer of the Year Emily Simmons and Keith Sabin of Dudley Sea Cadets. Laxmi Patel represented Share Civinest High Vorth Club Shree Gujarati Hindu Youth Club

which was highly commended in the 2013 Young Volunteers of the Year category

Brendan McKeown, information officer for Dudley Council for Voluntary Service, said: "Councillor Finch invited the award-winning volunteers to have a guided tour of the Mayor's parlour and enjoy a cup of tea before presenting them with framed photographs from the 2013 awards evening with which to mark the borough's appropriation of their valunteering."

preciation of their volunteering.



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A READER is troubled by the British Gas advert offering A HEADEH is troubled by the British Gas advert offering 'unlimited' call-outs to fix your broken boiler. He says: "It doesn't say much for the quality of the plumbers they employ, does it?" He's got a point. What is the difference between unlimited call-outs and one flaming call-out after another?

#### 00000000

FORTY religious leaders condemn government welfare policy and the numbers relying on food banks, and reap a rich crop of headlines ("Bishops Slam Cam Over UK's Hunger Crisis" - Daily Mirror). It is a puzzle of this cheerfully godless age of ours that we still pay attention to the views of people whose only claim to authority is being far more superstitious than the rest of us.

DAVID Miranda this week lost his High Court case DAVID Miranda this week lost his High Court case claiming he had been unlawfully detained at Heathrow while carrying computer files for his partner, Guardian journalist Glenn Greenwald. Miranda says he will appeal "and keep appealing to the end," and he probably will. A High Court case and subsequent appeals would bankrupt most folk but there always seems to be a bottomless pot of money for people fighting cases such as this. And six months after the incident, we still don't know what Miranda was doing at Heathrow in the first place. His existing was to set from Dettile to his hopens in Parall Let Miranda was doing at Heathrow in the first place. His mission was to get from Berlin to his home in Brazil. He could have taken any number of direct flights. Instead, bizarrely, he flew into one of only two countries in the world (the other being the United States) where he was likely to be detained. The flight was arranged and paid for by the Guardian. Amid all the tub-thumping about national security and press freedom, we are not being told even half of this story. If I were a conspiracy theorist I might think the Guardian brought Miranda to Heathrow as part of a win-win operation. If he gets nicked you have a great story about the UK authorities attacking press freedom. If he doesn't get nicked, you have a great story about tens of thousands of confidential files slipping in and out of the country under the noses of bungling cops. Gosh, what an old cynic I am.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes** every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

# **Shock over findings** on air quality levels workers AROUND 5,000 court staff could be offered

Britain for air pollution.

That is according to the latest findings from the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the borough is even worse than Birmingham.

The 10 most polluted neighbourhoods are all in London. Outside the capital, Sandwell and Leicester are joint fifth, with Walsall in eighth position and Birmingham tied at

grams per cubic metre of air. In Sandwell the figure is 13.6, in Walsall 13.2 and in

13.6, in Walsall 13.2 and in Birmingham 13.1. The City of London has the highest level in the UK with 18.8. The borough's director of public health John Middeton said: "Traffic is the major cause of air pollution in Sandwell, and the region, as industrial emissions are tightly controlled. Given the increase in traffic levels, we obviously face a big chal-

increase in traffic levels, we obviously face a big challenge. We have a network of air quality monitoring stations and we are doing all we can to combat pollution Elsewhere in the Black Country, work is taking place to tackle pollution levels in the Netherton district

els in the Netherton district

of Dudley

The motorway network and cars and lorries belching fumes whilst waiting in queues is being cited as the root of the problem.

The WHO upper limit for the particulate is 10 microtion and Birmingham tied at 10th with Nottingham. All have levels signifi-cantly above World Health Organisation(WHO) guide-lines. The problem is caused by tiny particles of airborne pollution from vehicle exhaust fumes.

#### Damage

Of the many types of air pollution, nvisible-to-the-eye droplets are the only kind that can enter the bloodstream and therefore be taken deep into the body and cause the most damage. But there is no obligation

for local authorities to tackle the fine particulates air pol-lution which is being blamed for a wide range of medical conditions, including angina and heart attacks, cancer, asthma, bronchitis, Type 2 diabetes and dementia. Road transport remains

the largest single source of nitrogen-dioxide pollution.

# Beards and beer go together



James Fownes, right, with Tony Colpitt and Derwin Bennett

LONG 'Uncle Albert' style, short, 'muttonchops', goat-ee or 'musketeer'... The owners of fine facial hair are grooming themselves ready for the Black Country 'Beard of the Year' contest. Even the ladies are in.

'Beard of the Year' contest.
Even the ladies are included with a category for them to show off fake beards they have fashioned.
The Dudley-based Fownes Brewing Co is holding the final of its hairy quest at the Wheatsheaf pub in Birmingham Road, Walsall, on March 1.
Brothers James and

Walsall, on March 1.

Brothers James and
Thomas Fownes, who run
the brewery in Clarence
Street, Upper Gornal, sport
beards themselves. They
call themselves a 'Dwarfen
brewery' with their beers
inspired by Norse myths
and fantasy literature.

and fantasy literature.
Tony Colpitt, aged 49, licensee of the Wheatsheaf, is
looking forward to hosting
the brewery competition,
which attracted entries
from all over the country.
Among the finalists in the
'full beard' category is former prison officer Derwin
'Ben' Bennett, of Ryland
Close, Tinton. Close, Tipton.

Discounts are on the cards for

AROUND 5,000 council staff could be offered an employee discount scheme instead of pay rises.

Sandwell Council says it cannot afford to increase its salaries as it needs to make savings of £100 million by 2017 and is instead looking for outside help to make their money go further.

The authority is looking for an external firm to help establish an employee discount scheme which works by tapping into the council's buying power as an organi-

buying power as an organi-sation of that size.

sation of that size.

Internal research has found half of council staff are at the top of their pay grade already, so the move is aimed at encouraging workers and helping to retain them while the authority cannot offer pay rises.

The authority has con-

The authority has earmarked £35,000 to spend on an external firm for the first year of the scheme to make the idea a reality. The initiative will not involve school staff in the borough.

staff in the borough.
Council leader Councillor
Darren Cooper said: "Staff
haven't had a pay rise so
what I've asked the council
to do is to look at how we
can use its collective buying
power to offer something
back to staff. Part of the
plan is for council staff to
have an employee discount
card which is accepted by
retailers in the borough."

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with this Advert

# **College** ingallery takeover

troversial former Public arts centre and gallery into

arts centre and gallery into a sixth form centre will cre-ate hundreds more college spaces than first expected. Not only will the new Central Sixth facility at the New Street venue in West Bromwich town centre have space for 800 students, but the move will also free up an entire floor of the £77 mil-lion Sandwell College build-ing at Space I one ing at Spon Lane.

#### Floor

Sandwell College
Vice-Principal Scott Upton
said: "Central Sixth students currently occupy the
entire sixth floor of Central Campus. Their move
to The Public in September
will allow other curriculum
areas in the college to expand their provision and the
numbers of students they
can accommodate." can accommodate."

can accommodate."

Work has begun on the sixth form centre. Bosses have received nearly 1,000 applicants for places at the facility, which will open in September.

Bosses say many of the

Bosses say many of the unique spaces in the building will be used as seminar and 'breakout' environments for learning.

The centre will be open to ne public with a renovated afé and exhibition space.

A business support centre will also be provided.

# expands Routes serving Merry Hill get £1.2m revamp

A £1.2million plan to improve pedestrian and bus routes around Merry Hill has been lodged with planners and it is hoped work will start

later this year.

Dudley Council has received Government funding to carry out the work which includes installing a traffic lights controlled crossing for shoppers on the Pedmore Road.

boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "Planning ap-plications for both of these

projects have already been submitted and it is likely

they will be considered by the Development Control Committee next month."

The council received £1.1m from the Government

towards the scheme and have earmarked a further £100,000 from the council's

2014/15 transport fund.
Other projects in the Black Country have been successful in getting transport funding.
The Cradley Heath interphance part to the town.

change, next to the town's

railway station, will be given a £1.9 million revamp. Centro will invest £3.3m

and information improve-ments on eight key routes ments on eight key routes into Brierley Hill, and £700,000 towards the Black

Country Swift card scheme.

buses, £1m of shelter

on

The crossing is being by Heather Large built near the spot where 53-year-old taxman Chris 53-year-old taxman Chris Clarke was knocked down as he walked to work at the nearby HM Revenue & Customs at The Waterfront in April last year. His fam-ily has welcomed improve-ments on the road. Officers are working with

transport authority Centro on the proposals and hope to secure planning permission for the scheme next month.

#### Junction

Changes will also be made to the junction of The Boulevard and Mill Street to provide priority to buses to make it easier for them to accessing and leaving the centre. A new segregated signal controlled bus lane and gate will be created.

It comes after a planned £3m bus station at Merry Hill was shelved because transport bosses feared it

transport bosses feared it would be too expensive. The council's transport

# Flag unveiled for Commonwealth Day



Lord Leiutenant Paul Sabapathy With the Commonwealth flag at the temple in Tividale

DOZENS of civic dignitaries gathered for the ceremonial unveiling of a Commonwealth flag which will be hoisted to mark the contribution of its nations to the UK.

The Shri Venkateswara Balaji Temple in Tividale was chosen to host the event to officially hand over the flag which will be flown at council houses across the region to mark Commonwealth Day on March 10.

Around 150 leaders from authorities turned out for the occasion, as well as Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Paul Sabapathy, whose duty it is to represent the Queen, as well as the High Sheriff Christine Braddock.

Leo O'Toole, from the Hindu temple's management team, said the venue was chosen because of its reputation for hosting inter-faith events as well as supporting secular groups.

He said: "It really was a unique and historic occasion which embraced the temple's collaboration with all types of groups."

all types of groups

#### Tour of hospital maternity unit

VISITORS to a hospital can go behind the scenes of the maternity department during a tour next month. Staff at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley will also be showing people around the neonatal unit and children's wayd to showese

the neonatal unit and children's ward to showcase the care, services and facilities available to patients. The tour takes place at 6pm on Thursday, March 13. Maternity matron Yvonne Jones said: "This event represents an opportunity for maternity, neonatal and children's ward staff to present our outstanding facilities." Places are limited sanyone wishing to attend

anyone wishing to attend should call organiser Helen Board on (01384) 321124.

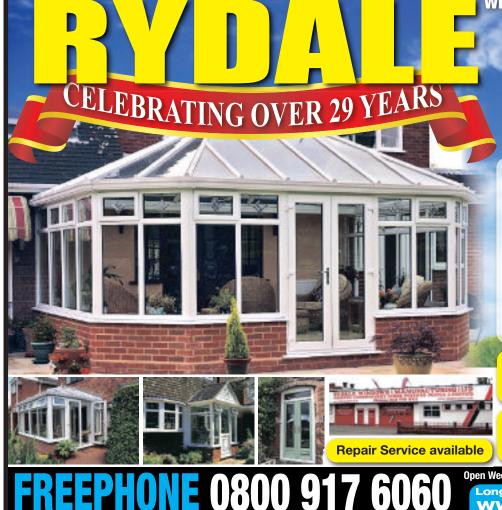
#### Over the Edge strikes gold again

A VILLAGE brewery has won a gold award at the National Winter Ales Festival for its powerful ale.

Over The Edge, which is brewed by Kinver Brewery, near Stourbridge, was judged top in the barley wine category at the opening day of the festival in the Roundhouse, Derby, last week. last week.

Over The Edge, a 7.5 per cent strength ale has been West Midlands champion beer for two years running.

Kinver Brewery, started by Dave Kelly and Ian Davies, is now based at Rocky Wall, near Kinver Edge.



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Can that be said of any other company in the area? Rydale also offer a Supply Only service on all products including free delivery.

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#### **NEWS FEATURE**



SO, the men's curling team failed to make gold at the Winter Olym-

pics.
Truth be told, I was a little sur prised, I would have thought if there was any sport the British should be good at, it would involve young men in orange jump suits sweeping up stones with a

or Community Payback, as it sometimes known.

MALFUNCTIONING vending machines are right up there with pay-and-display car parks and automated telephone-answering services when it comes to the scourges of modern life.

Their operators rake in a for-

Ineir operators rake in a for-tune from poor unfortunate indi-viduals who put money into them for no reward, before meekly walking away having decided that a 60p bar of chocolate is not worth only to were over.

worth going to war over.

Raise a glass, then, to Afghan war veteran Robert McKevitt, who is clearly made of much

who is clearly made of much sterner stuff.

Feeling a snack gap during his shift in a warehouse, he tried to buy a Twix from his work's vend

buy a twix from his work's vend-ing machine.

The machine swallowed his money without delivering the goods, so showing commenda-ble restraint he put another coin in the slot.

Deciding that a more direct

approach was needed, he then took a forklift truck to the errant took a forkillt truck to the errant machine, allegedly dropping it six times onto the floor, eventually releasing three Twix bars from the dispenser.

He got the sack, of course, but he did get a free Twix for his trouble and extreme a bleau for die.

ble.And struck a blow for disgruntled consumers everywhere 00000

NEXT time political commentators start banging on about the poor turnouts at elections in the poor turnouts at elections in this country, remember the carnage that is taking place in the Ukraine at the moment and be grateful that the British are so splendidly indifferent.

spienoidly indifferent.
The Ukraine is a country divided, split down the middle between those who want greater links with what remains of the old USSR, and those who seek closer ties with the European Union.
How people can get so worked.

How people can get so worked up over politics seems ridiculous to us in Britain. But of course, all we have to worry about is which band of London-centric, well-to-do liberal types get the ministerial limos for the next five years, so it is hard to get to excited

rial limos for the next five years, so it is hard to get too excited one way or the other.

By comparison, the choices facing the people of the Ukraine are stark indeed. Half of the people seem to want to be ruled by an unelected, undemocratic empire which will suppress their liberty and stamp out their soveliberty and stamp out their sovereignty. And the other half want to be ruled by Russia.







# Come Together to hear Fab Four

Peter Dicks has Let It Be known he is dedicated to Beatles memorabilia, as **ROB GOLLEDGE** reports

'KNOCK-KNOCK' - 'who's there?' - 'One Direction' - 'One Direction, Who?' - 'Exactly!' jokes Peter Dicks.

It is a gag not unexpected from a man who for 13 years he has been reaching listeners across the globe as the host of the longest-running dedicated Beatles radio show in Europe – a show recorded in the basement of his semi-detached home in Walsall.

Peter's studio is crammed with every

Peter's studio is crammed with every type of Beatles-themed merchandise you could imagine.
Posters, photographs, a toy Yellow Submarine, Fab Four liveried Corgi cars, and wall-to-wall vinyl.
There is a story behind every gem among his hoard. How he obtained it, why it is significant, and why he loves it.

#### **Tenuous**

And his own personal story is an incredible one. It started with a chance appearance on a local radio station. Now he receives correspondence from Beatles fans all over the world and even Christ-was cords from Vales Ope

fans all over the world and even Christmas cards from Yoko Ono.

But what makes his show unique is that he does not exclusively play The Beatles' tunes. He plays any music with a link, no matter how tenuous, to John, Paul, George, Ringo – even Stuart Sutcliffe and Pete Best.

He will play the music of Bob Dylan – explaining how the American singer-songwriter influenced the four Liverpudlians.

Another show will play Dec. To

pudhans.

Another show will play Doris Troy because she was signed to The Beatles' Apple Records label and would later go on to work with George Harrison.



Fan and presenter of Beatles and Beyond, Pete Dicks, from Walsall

He's even had guitarist Jackie He's even and gultarist Jackie Lomax, who was signed up to Apple Records and worked with Harrison and Eric Clapton, appear on his show, stay at his home, and play a private gig for him and his wife Janet. Any connection in any way, Peter is interested.

interested. His own story started in 1999 when he was working for a motoring company in Birmingham and a colleague said he should write to the presenter of a local radio show about record collectors. "He knew I collected records so said I should write in," he said. "So I wrote to

Mike Adams at BBC Radio Shropshire who presented The Record Collectors. "I was invited in and became a regu-lar and would sometimes find people for them to interview

them to interview.
"It was through Mike that I met John
Lennon's half sister Julia Baird.
"Mike then said he was thinking
about starting a radio station in Crewe,
Witch FM, and asked would I be interorted.

ested.
"I said that everything I play has a link to The Beatles - and it became Beatles and Beyond.
"I collected records well before the

show. It was not until the mid-60s when

show. It was not until the mid-60s when classical music was in Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band that I got into The Beatles - and it grew from there." He records his show every week on equipment in his basement and sends it out to a string of community radio stations - including WCRfm in Wolverhampton and Chase FM in Cannock.

Due to the rise of the internet his show is available for download on iTunes which has seen it picked up by stations across the Pond and is a big hit with listeners in the USA which is currently celebrating 50 years since The Beatles arrived in the States. It is the only radio show to be recommended by The Beatles Story exhibition in Liverpool.

Now, the self-employed agency worker has been asked to help write books, appear at events and represented John

pear at events and represented John Lennon on the BBC 'Greatest Britons' programme with Bill Harry, Paul Gam-baccini and Bob Harris in 2002.

#### Envelope

The 60-year-old's most-cherished possession is a personal autograph to him signed by George Harrisonand his favourite Beatles' tracks include I'm A Walrus and While My Guitar Gently

Weeps.
As I sit in Peter's front room above his recording studio, he puts on a CD of the

1 album.
"What is your favourite Beatles song he asks me?"
As I frantically think of something to say, I remark As I frantically think of something intelligent-sounding to say, I remark that Hey Jude has become intolerable with McCartney reeling it out it seems at every opening of an envelope.

"Do you know about the swearing in Hey Jude?" Peter says excitedly.

"No," I exclaim.

With a cheeky grin he plays the song, turning up the volume at the key moment.

ment. What is it? You will have to try to find

it for yourselves.
For more information on Peter and Beatles and Beyond go to www.beatle-sandbeyond.homestead.com

## **THROUGH** THE YEARS

A PERTON mother-to-be had an amazing escape when her Mini was crushed beneath the Mini was crushed beneath the wheels of an articulated lorry. While Lynn Pitt's car was severely damaged outside the Mermaid pub at Wightwick, the 26-year-old escaped with only cuts and bruises.

THERE was a new name in town for Black Country beer lovers, after Ansells announced would be opening a new brewery in the area. The brewing giant formed a new Black Country division called Holt, Plant and Deakin, and said it would be opening a small brewery at its Oldbury headquarters.

FORMER Wolves and England FORMER Wolves and England forward Jesse Pye died, aged 62. Pye, who starred alongside Billy Wright and Jimmy Mullen in the all-conquering Wolves sides of the 1950s, scored a hat-trick on his debut after signing for a fee of £10,000 in 1946. He also scored in the 1949 FA Cup final victory over Leicester City.

#### 1994

WOLVERHAMPTON ground to a standstill as the area was hit by unexpected heavy snow. Even the police reduced their car patrols as the borough council admitted it had failed in its efforts to clear the roads

PRIME Minister John Major admitted he was bewildered by youngsters who bought expensive jeans and then tore holes in them during a visit to a fashion show in the West Midlands.

A ROW broke out after Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean finished a disappointing third at the Winter Olympics in Norway. Ten years earlier, the pair had wowed judges who awarded them a 100 per cent score, but this time they finished behind two Russian duos. A TV poll found that the public thought they had been robbed this time around.

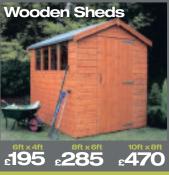
2004 FAMILIES were lining the walls of their homes with tin foil and installing mesh curtains over windows amid health fears over the dows amid health fears over the number of mobile phone masts in the Wolverhampton area. Adam and Nicola Wright, of Ess-ington said they had stripped the wallpaper off the walls of their home and replaced it with foil to protect their children from what they believed were potentially dangerous emissions dangerous emissions.

WOLVES legend Bobby Ma-WOLVES legend Bobby Ma-son unmasked an imposter of the same name who had been opening fetes and attending charity functions in his name. The pensioner had become a local celebrity by posing as the Tipton-born star, who played as inside forward during the club's glory years of the 1950s.



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#### **LETTERS**

## We cannot go on polluting our world GP must be

scales The problem that we have now is the rate at which they are happening. If we look at our own country, the south-west has been flooded in the last seven winters and now we have seen hurricane strength winds in Wales.

Wales.
We get mild winters and constant rain.
The Arctic cap is 'rather substantial' but
it is a scientific fact that it is reducing due
to temperature change. Sea levels are rising
and that also is scientific fact.
The Amazon jungle is being cut down, In-

IT is true that in history there have always donesia totally destroyed her forest for the been natural disasters on major and minor sake of palm oil and now the Burmese jun-

gle is under threat. Whilst Britain and Western Europe do try to operate greener policies, China (and India to a lesser degree) continues to belch India to a lesser degree) continues to belch out pollution on an enormous scale. China's rivers are a disgrace and the population of large cities have to wear masks because of smog. We cannot go on polluting our world and destroying our resources like this without there being some penalty.

S HUNT
Dudley

## Half year of hassle for a view

FOR reasons best known to rOR reasons best known to themselves those charged with regenerating Dudley town centre have decided the biggest 'problem' is that market shoppers cannot see the castle.

To correct this we are to have six months of half the have six months of half the town being less accessible to shoppers than ever before. Bus travellers are being asked to walk twice as far from the shops to their bus

Two dozen small busi-nesses which did have buses and cars stopping outside their front doors will, for six months, have no such pass-ing trade.

At the end of it all, should At the end of it all, should any of those businesses sur-vive, they will have the pub-lic loos moved thirty yards away from the town centre and their customers will be able to see the castle, which it is hoped will compensate them for losses incurred during this rebuilding pe-

Some hope E SHAW Dudley

### to the Editor

#### **POST**

**Dudley Chronicle** Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL Dudley @expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## From hard graft to Benefits Street

IN 1944, my Dad was with the Army fighting in Europe and I was living with my mother and three brothers

mother and three brothers in a back-to-back in Winson Green, Birmingham.

Mom does not know where Dad is and the area has been heavily bombed but there are no state hand outs for Mom — she is on because.

outs for Mom — she is on her own.

To keep us all fed and clothed, first thing in the morning she cleans at a local pub, then she comes home and gets breakfast for us and sees my brothers off to school.

Then she takes me to unreserv before going to her

to school.

Then she takes me to nursery before going to her next job, cleaning at a big house in Edgbaston.

She rounded off her work-

in a factory.
But she still found time to keep us clean and to do the washing.

Sometimes, when she got back, we would all go down into the cellar and make bricks from the slack for the

I thought it fun but for my Mom these must have been desperate times.
Then, 1944, Winson Green — now. 2014. Ben-

Green — now, 2014, Benefits Street, Winson Green.

Compare and contrast — the word contempt springs to my mind.

Range of

Kitchens.

**Bedrooms** and

**Bathrooms** to suit

all budgets

B OSBORNE Dudley

# on bus route

WHAT a waste of money to build a new doctor's surgery of £8.5m and it's not on a good bus service and we have good one at Worcester Street which has been there

for over 60 years.

I'm in my 61st year and have mobility problems and have to use a stick for most of my walking. I'm not old enough to get an OAP pass and to use Ring and Ride

you need one.

Why build a new surgery when it's not on a bus route Every time now when I

need an appointment I will have to book a taxi there and back at a £5 every jour-

ney.

They did not ask the patients if they wanted a new

surgery.
S J ROBERTS Norton Stourbridge

## Bins dealt a major blow

WITH the recent spate of wind and rain we have seen the Dudley borough littered with blown over wheelie bins.

new style grey wheelie bins are blown over even when full of rubbish these bins are far too nar row and light.

Did Dudley Council ever think something so flimsy would stay upright in windy weather?

In the words of the Bob Dylan song: 'The answer my friend is blowing in the

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#### **CLUB NEWS**

### Wonderful Speaker's spotlight to see the happy faces on work for charity

#### TRYSULL/SEISDON WI

OUR speaker for the evening was Bill Fearne-hough, who had come to tell us about Operation Christmas Child

mas Child.

It is the world's largest children's Christmas project. Each year shoeboxes are filled with gifts and sent to needy children overseas. Last year 4,600 boxes were sent from Wolverhampton to Rumania. to Rumania. In the UK alone, around

918,000 boxes were delivered to children in Eastern Europe, and almost 10 milwere sent out globally

Bill showed us a short video of a school in England

Bill showed us a short video of a school in England who had wrapped shoeboxes in Christmas paper, filled them with presents and a photograph of their class, and then sent them abroad.

The film followed the boxes to their destination and we saw the joy on the faces of the boys and girls as they opened them.

A look ahead to some events planned for this year. On March 19 we are invited to tour round the Beacon Centre for the Blind. The visit will include lunch in their canteen. On August 6 we are going to have a Steam and Cream tea on the Churnett Valley railway, which travels through beautiful countryside, known as Staffordshire's Little Switzerland. zerland.

Our next meeting is March13 at the village hall, Trysull, at 7.30pm. Ian Rigby will be talking about halcyon enamels. The competition is a collectable box.

THE club held its monthly luncheon at The Lindens, Wolverhampton with 64 present including two new members. The speaker, Mr Jerry Hobbs spoke

about the charities he works for now that he is retired.

The AGM followed the talk. Reports

were given by the chairman, secretary and treasurer and these were approved and sec-

The chairman thanked the club for the support given to her over the last year and presented gifts to the three retiring com-

# badge of office. She told members there were two new committee members and asked that the committee be accepted en bloc and this was

W'TON WOMEN'S LUNCHEON CLUB

mittee members. The new chairman, Mrs Susan Farnath was then invested with the badge of office.

agreed.
At this week's meeting the speaker was Natasha Roderick-Jones who talked about 'he Energy Exchange.

**Busy start to year** 

and lots to come

## **Looking back to** start of the tram

#### K'WINSFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DR Paul Collins was the speaker at the February meeting, his subject being By Tram from Dudley.

He recounted the story of the beginning of local trams. This was the first meeting in 2014 and new members and visitors would be welcomed at the Community Centre,

High Street, Kingswinford.

Meetings are usually on the first Monday in the month, the next on Monday at  $7.30 \mathrm{pm}$  when the speaker will be Max Keenwith the History of Dudley Castle.

#### CODSALL 'M' TG

THIS year is already proving to be a very busy one for Codsall 'M' TG. We started off in January with a social

afternoon in aid of the Macro Anophthalmic Children's Society and the Alzheimer's Cafe. More than £300 was raised.

On February 1 we joined in the celebra tions for Codsall Village Hall's 50th Anniversary. There was a stall showing all of Codsall TG's activities. Several outings, lunches and events are already planned for

# Focus on amateur videos

THE February meeting of the West Bromwich Cen-tral Townswomen's Guild proved to be a most enter-taining afternoon. After the usual business preliminaries the chair.

preliminaries, the chair-man, Mrs Joyce Brown, wel-comed Mrs Maureen Cooper and Mr Les Hickman who are long-time members of the Wulfrun Camcorder

Club. They explained that this was an association of dedicated enthusiasts who meet once a week to view their latest amateur video offerings.

The guild was shown a wide variety of short films taken by members.

All members agreed that

the illustrated talk had been very entertaining and thanked the presenters for braving the elements in such appalling weather.

The monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 2 pm. at Moose Hall, Woodward Street, West Bromwich. The next meeting will be the AGM on March 9.

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# **Drunk motorist admits** wrong-way driving for three miles on M5

## Knitty gritty history



Janine Fletcher knitting poppies for the Zeppelin Dreams drama to be staged in Wolverhampton

A COMMUNITY group has got down to the knitty gritty

A COMMUNITY group has got down to the knitty gritty in helping a theatre production come to life next month. Tipton Library's Knitters and Natters group have knitted special poppies which will be used as props in a poignant community-based show at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on March 20 and 21. The show, Zeppelin Drams, explores the tragic events of 100 years ago when a huge Graf Zeppelin airship dropped its bombs on Wolverhampton and surrounding areas of the Black Country. The airship was supposed to be attacking docks in Liverpool but got lost in fog. English Touring Opera has joined forces with the Grand Theatre and Wolverhampton Music Education Hub to present the opera and nine community groups are helping to

ent the opera and nine community groups are helping to stage it. It is the first of its kind since 2007 when groups produced successful show A House on the Moon.

A DEPRESSED care worker has admitted driving the wrong way along the M5 while twice the drink-drive limit.

Katy Homer, aged 26, was heavily under the influence of alcohol when she joined the southbound side of the motorway at junction 2 at Oldbury and drove north for three miles to junction 1 for West

Bromwich. A lorry driver flashed his

Alorry driver flashed his lights at her and sounded his horn as he swerved out of her way – but she carried on up the inside lane of the carriageway.

On leaving the motorway, Homer, of Clent View Road, Colley Gate, near Halesowen, circled the Kenrick Way roundabout twice before being stopped by police.

The incident happened on December 4 at around 2.30am.

on December 4 at around 2.30am.

She was recorded as having 79 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal alcohol limit is 35 microgrammes.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court last week Homer

Court last week Homer pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and drink driving.

Mr Malcolm Fowler, defending Homer, said: "It is a grave allegation.
"I did touch upon medical history, there is a serious condition of depression for this lady who is on medication. She is still in employment despite her condition."

Judge John Warner ad-



Depressed - Katy Homer

journed the case for a report from her general medical practitioner and the probation service.

tion service.

He also gave her an interim driving disqualification until a sentencing hearing on March 28.

He said: "I am sure you are aware driving the wrong way on the motorway when over twice the limit is a very serious matter." serious matter.

Homer was charged during the opening week of West Midlands Police's Christmas campaign to reduce drink-driving.



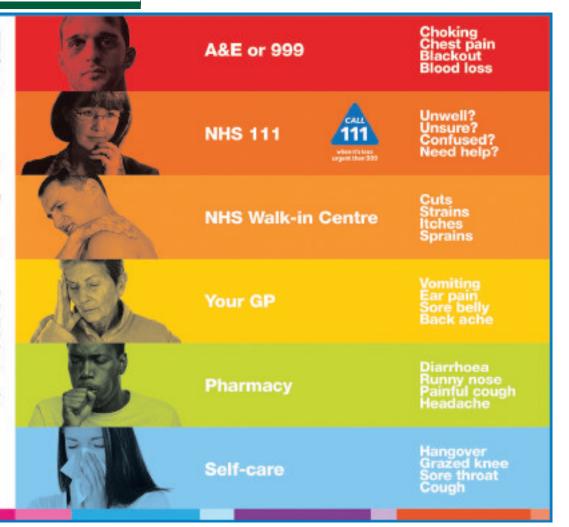
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#### MEMORY LANE







STAFFORD TIM STURGESS Express and Star..... Local author Rich Pekar, left . is



Keen motorcylist Nandor on a bike in 1957



STAFFORD TIM STURGESS Express and Star...... Local

# Father's story to be made into a £4m film

forced to flee his native Hungary in 1956 after taking part in the uprising against Russian occupy-

ing forces.

He arrived in Staffordshire where he found sanctuary, a job and love. But 30 years on, after leaving suicide notes to his family, he took his own life

nis ramily, ne took his own life aged 48.

His remarkable and ultimately tragic story was written down and finished by his son Richard, a product development leader at Rugeley's Armitage Shanks with the Polish Club in Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, a great source of information

Now the tale has been picked up by Stafford-movie company Grand Independent who want to turn it into a £4million film. By Marion Bren-

Mr Pekar, 45, said: "It's a fantas-

Mr Pekar, 45, said: "It's a fantastic feeling, no words can describe it. My dad would be completely over the moon because he started writing the story when I was 10. Now I have finished it for him."

When the Revolution started on October 23, Nandor Pekar was primed for action. Nandor was based just outside Budapest with a group of student rebels whose job was to ambush Russian tanks heading for the capital. They petrol-bombed the vehicles and, where possible, stole their weapons.

In less than a week the Russians had been beaten back and a new moderate Prime Minister had taken office, restoring democracy and freedom of speech. But within days he announced that Hungary was going to leave the Warsaw Pact, a move that saw 1,000 Russian tanks roll into Budapest on

November 4. They proceeded to destroy the Hungarian army, An estimated 30,000 people were killed and around 200,000 fled to the west. Nandor, devastated by their failure to secure victory, was among the last to leave.

The title of his son's book, Last Train To Budapest, was inspired by a conversation they had on a trip back to Hungary years later, when Richard was around 10.

Research was on trips to Hungary and the security and the security of the security and the security of the securit

when richard was around 10.

Research was on trips to Hungary over years and a source of information was the Polish Club in Wolverhampton as the Hungarian Community Association of Staffordshire is also based there.

The host, whileheld in 2006 hos.

tordshire is also based there.

The book, published in 2006, has already been filmed when students at Staffordshire University's Stafford campus made a short movie.

The 35-minute film, premiered at the university in 2010. The new film will be premiered in London. film will be premiered in London and New York.



Nandor Pekar in England in 1957



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# On track for model fun at club's big day

turned up to a model club's annual open day.

Families from

Annual open day.
Families from across the Black
Country visited Warley Model
Railway Club's open day at their
headquarters in Pearsall Drive,
Oldbury, along with model lovers
from as far away as Leicester and

Oldbury, along with model lovers from as far away as Leicester and Peterborough.

Around 260 people turned out for the first of this year's twice-annual open days, which give those living nearby the opportunity to see what happens at one of the most famous model railway clubs in the country.

Twelve layouts were on display, with a range of gauge sizes, some of which are fictional stations based on real places – such as the Yardlea station, based on that of Stechford.

The guest of honour was the Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Linda Horton, who said, "I went to the National Exhibition Centre earlier on in the year, and judged some of the layouts that were there, for prizes, I was very interested in what they were doing and when I was invited to come here today, I jumped at the chance."

Club members were also on hand to give model-making demonstrations.

The event also featured a new layout based on the popular children's television character Peppa Pig, which was a favourite with younger visitors.

The club's publicity officer David Moorhouse said: "The open day is popular with local families, and the small children get very excited, jumping up and down and screaming The day was

ular with local families, and the small children get very excited, jumping up and down and screaming The day was very well attended, we've had in excess of 260 visitors coming from as far away as Peterborough."

The open days are also an opportunity for the club, which has been in existence since 1968, to recruit more members. Mr Moorhouse added: "We

are going very strong, we've got 200



Member and councillor Roger Horton





Mayor Linda Horton, with Alf

members currently, and we've picked up a few more at the open day. That's what it's all about, to let people know locally that there's a great club on their doorstep."

The club is also preparing to extend its Pearsall Drive base, by increasing the size of the mezzanine level to ac-

commodate more layouts. Their next



Picture by Jozef Lopuszynski

open day will take place in May, and their huge annual event at the NEC, attended by hundreds of model fans from around the country, will this year be on November 22 and 23. To find out more, visit www.war-

To find our filters, visit www.wai-ley-mr.org.uk, or pop into one of their club evenings on Tuesdays, Wednes-days and Fridays from 7.30pm.



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#### **NEWS**

# Food for thought from chiefs on waste bags

ing urged to 'Love their food caddy' as part of the drive to boost recycling rates. Free food recycling bags are be-ing given to residents to encour-

age even more people to use the

age even more people to use the weekly collection service.
Sandwell Council and its waste partner Serco introduced the food recycling in 2011 and will now deliver rolls of 24 compostable liners to all homes with the service.
Councillor Maria Crompton, Sandwell's cabinet member for highways and environment, said there were plenty of reasons for people to give food waste recycling a go if they weren't already. weren't already.

#### Success

"Food waste recycling has been a great success with many residents embracing the service and enjoying its benefits," she said.
"Not only are they doing their bit for the environment, people using the service see just how much food they throw away and can save money by buying less in the future. It also helps us send less rubbish to landfill which means avoiding expensive taxes and keeps council tax bills down.
"So I encourage people who don't currently recycle lethover food to use the free bags. They might be surprised at how simple it is to do and how much money they can save."

Jason Holtom, partnership director for Serco, said: "Using the brown food waste container can really help households in Sandwell make smarter decisions when they are shopping by highlighting the food they waste and never manage to eat.
"I encourage all residents to take advantage of the free liners and in doing so they will help themselves make savings." Distribution of the bags started



Councillor Maria Crompton, cabinet member for highways and environment

this month and all homes will have re-ceived their roll by March 14.

They will be delivered with an infor-mation leaflet highlighting benefits of the food waste recycling.

Items that can be recycled in the new caddies include: fish, tea and coffee grounds, bread and pastries, meat and bones, fruit and vegetables,

dairy, other foods including rice, pasta, beans, pulses, cat and dog food Residents are advised to store the liners in a cool dry place.

Food waste is collected on the same vehicle as blue lid recycling but stored in a different compartment. The liners will be delivered with an information leaflet.

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#### **FOCUS ON CRADLEY & CRADLEY HEATH**

## New £3m fire station taking shape

A £3 million fire station is quickly taking shape with the steel frame and roof of the new building completed.

The station is being built on the site of former mu-nicipal buildings on the junction of Halesowen Road and Barrs Road, in Cradley Heath.

Officials from West Midlands Fire Service con-firmed construction of the station was progressing

firmed construction of the station was progressing well. They said construction of the steel frame and roof of the building had been completed with brick and block work already under way.

The fitting of electrics will begin in the next couple of weeks. It was announced last week the new station will be named Haden Cross Community Fire Station. Officials from the service said building work was scheduled for completion in the early summer ready for the service to move into.

## **Heathens** open shop

THE Cradley Heathens speedway team is openinh a club shop selling merchan-

dise.
They have teamed up with

They have teamed up with T-shirt printers Printworx in Quarry Bank to start the new store for fans.

The partnership comes after the National League team's supporters' club stepped down from its responsibility for club merchandise. The shop will be in High Street.

# Level crossing repairs delayed by specialist parts

WORK to repair a level crossing in Cradley Heath, damaged when a van crashed into it, has been delayed for more than a month be-

cause of problems getting parts.

The barriers at the crossing next to Cradley Heath Station were damaged six weeks ago, forcing drivers to find

alternative routes due to road closures.

There has also been a knock-on effect for wheelchairs

delays.
Two weeks ago Network
Rail promised that the problem would be fixed within a weekbut people are still fac-ing l delays while engineers wait for bespoke parts to be delivered and installed.

Cradley Heath and Old Hill councillor Anne Shack-leton said: "Network Rail

There has also been a knock-on effect for wheelchairs and families with prams, who are unable to use the station's footbridge, have been told to travel to other stations with better access.

In the days following the crash on January 13, Network Rail said that engineers were working to fix the barriers and that the crossing would be quickly re-opened but has since then repairs have run into delays.

Two weeks are Network smin mash to give has a time explanation as to why there has been such a long delay in repairing the crossing. We just want them to be open with us and let us know how long it's going to take and what exactly needs to be done. It is affecting people's ability to travel on to other stations, such as Birmingham and Worcester."

A spokesman for Network Rail said: "We apologise for the ongoing disruption that the delay to repairing this level crossing. We have had to source different specialist parts and their delivery has been delayed."

Charity fund appeal
COLLECTIONS will be taking place in a supermarket for
Marie Curie Cancer Care's Great Daffodil Appeal. Members of Kingswinford & Stourbridge Lions Club will be at
Tesco Cradley Heath, on March 27 and 28.
Every penny collected will be spent in communities helping to provide free nursing care to terminally ill patients.



Dennis Rose, of Netherton and John Rose, of Quarry Bank, at their grandfather's grave

Loca

## Touching tribute to fallen hero

A GOOD Samaritan has lov ingly polished a memorial stone to a First World War stone to a First World War soldier and left a patriotic posy of red, white and blue flowers as a salute. The ges-ture has deeply touched the grandsons of Private James Southall.

Private Southall was killed in action in August 1916 and, although bur-ied in Londsdale Cemetery in the Somme region of France, his widow paid for a memorial to him in St Peter's Churchyard, Cradley.

His grandchildren, Den-nis and John Rose, were denis and John Rose, were de-lighted when ex-servicemen led a move to rescue graves from the undergrowth. Now they have been taken by sur-prise by someone cleaning the white marble memorial to their grandfather, who was 26 when he died, and arranged a posy on the earth below. "It's a lovely thing to do," said Dennis, aged 70, of Hockley Lane, Netherton.

## **Poor Kelly** is now on the mend

AN injured dog has been given a new lease of life after animal-lovers rallied round to pay for a major operation to her paw.

Abandoned Staffordshire cross Kelly was found by a dog warden in a layby earlier this year. Her back left paw was partly severed and she had lost a lot of blood.

The seven-year-old dog

The seven-year-old dog was taken to charity Wild was taken to charity Wild Acre Rescue who arranged vet care. Kelly is now living with fosterers Tanya and Howard Smith in Cradley Heath, who nursed the pooch back to health. To begin with the couple had to feed her with a syringe because she was so poorly.

An appeal for donations to cover medical bills has raised £1,500 so far. Kelly has been able to undergo an operation and will have her bandages removed this

her bandages removed this

## Bid to tackle bottleneck

ALTHOUGH the Merry Hill ALTHOUGH the Merry Hill bus station plans have been put on hold, other projects in the Black Country have been more successful in getting transport funding. The Cradley Heath interchange, next to the town's railway station, will be given a £1.9 million revamp.

As part of Centro's funding programme it will also

As part of Centro's fund-ing programme it will also invest £3.3m on new buses and £1m of shelter and information improvements.





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Two days departing September 6





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attractions at Greenwich include the National Maritime Museum, the Royal Observatory - a great baroque masterpiece of English Architecture, the opportunity to stand on the world famous Greenwich Meridan Line and the restored Cutty Sark - the fastest sailing ship of her day (some entrance charges apply).

A visit to the town of Royal Windsor is also on the itinerary where Windsor Castle, the Official Residence of Her Majesty The Queen is located (entrance charges apply), plus Frogmore House, Eton College, a great variety of shops, pubs and cafes, as well as the Great Park.

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## More homes need to be built

A POPULATION boom is pushing the West Midlands' housing market towards breaking point, according to a new report.
Housebuilding is failing to keep pace with a population surge in the region, while wages continue to lag behind housing costs, says the National Housing Federation.
The report Home Truths 2014: West Midlands warns that less than half of the homes needed just to house new households in the region are currently being built.
The federation is calling for a major building programme of affordable housing. Overall the region built the third lowest number of new homes in England over the past year.

The federation says rents are rising even The rederation says rents are rising even faster than house prices with Birmingham up to an average of £565 per week and Dudley at £516.

# Duped pensioner warns of County spend to mend holes a 'convincing' phone con

dreds of pounds by a cruel phone con has warned others to be wary of

thieves posing as police officers.
The 85-year-old from Handsworth Wood, who asked to remain anonymous, handed over his bank card and PIN to 'convincing' bogus detectives who called claiming his

account had been hacked by card cloners. He was awoken in the early hours of January 17 to be told his card had been copied and used on a £1,000 shopping spree and was advised to

the scammer jammed the line so when the for-mer coal merchant redialled he was actually still speaking to the tricksters rather than his bank.

#### Courier

They dispatched a 'courier' to collect his bank card saying it was needed as evidence before helping themselves to more than £300 in a matter of minutes.

The pensioner has labelled the fraudsters 'low-life cowards' and is urging others to be wary. He said: "I called what I thought was my bank and then dialled 999, but on both occasions

because I used the same phone, it turns out I was still speaking to the same people.

"First they pretended to be detectives, then bank staff and then 999 call handlers — they must have passed the handset between them because each voice sounded different.

"I had no idea people could jam a phone line by not hanging up. I found out later that a neighbour had heard of this kind of scam but not told anyone. If I'd have known I'm sure I wouldn't have fallen for it. have fallen for it.

"These are low-life cowards stealing savings and pension money from the elderly.

# to mend holes

after the region's roads took another winter battering.
Councils are increasing the number of road repairs they are carrying out as reports of problems from motorists continue to rise.
Worcester County Council has earmarked £700,000 for repairs.
The state of the roads in the area has wors-

The state of the roads in the area has worsened following the record levels of rainfall since the start of 2014.

But in Dudley borough the number of reported potholes is around the same, or even less, than last year. Dudley transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed explained there was a similar number to last year in the borough. He said: "We will continue to work as efficiently as possible as we undertake our ongoing programme of repair work to potholes across the borough."

## Players in tale of a big bad mouse



IT is the story of a downtrodden office worker who becomes a 'hero' after being accused of being a villain.

In their 51st year, The Community Players in Brierley Hill are preparing to take the hilarious farce Big Bad Mouse to the stage next month.

The 1960s play, written by Phillip King and Falkland Carey, follows the curious fortunes of Mr Bloome, a worker in the orders office of Chunkbix Ltd, who one day is accused of chasing a young female across the common. To the amazement of the domineering Mr Price-Hargraves, the reprehensible conduct makes him the centre of attention for every woman and girl in the office, including chairman Lady Chesaneake

Big Bad Mouse will be performed at the Oakfield Centre, Brettell Lane, at 7.30pm from Wednesday, March 5, to Saturday, March 8.

Tickets cost £7, £5 concessions. To book call (01384)

# Jobs and education fair hosted by MP

A FURTHER education and apprenticeships fair has been organised by Margot James, MP for Stourbridge, at the Glasshouse Arts Centre on Friday, March 7, from 5pm.

It aims to give students from Year 7 to Year 13, and their parents, the opportunity to network with a wide range of national and local organisations. There will also be a chance to attend a also be a chance to attend a series of workshops on topics such as learning a trade. Firms will include Barclays, Aston Martin, Tesco, Jaguar

A FURTHER education and Land Rover, TeachFirst, apprenticeships fair has the Royal Navy, the Royal been organised by Margot Air Force, Dudley Group of James, MP for Stourbridge, Hospitals, McDonald's, and at the Glasshouse Arts Cen-HSBC.

HSBC.

Ms James said: "I am delighted to be able to host this event for a second time, where we will again see major national and local companies from a wide range of sectors engaging with young people in Stourbridge about their options." For more information email margot.iames.mp@narlia. margot.james.mp@parlia ment.uk or call 01384 370 574.



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#### MEMORY LANE







Right, MP Tom Watson launches the project, with founder Steve Trow, second left



Smethwick breakdancer Robert Mackenzie, in 1984



A group of young men in Tipton pose for the camera in 1980

# **Bostin' treasure trove** with pictures archive

West Brom, 'Mr Knowall' makes his way down the street cheered on by a procession of children.

In their tank-tops and flares, the beaming kids bob down the street holding up signs read-ing 'Wanted! A Play To Play' and 'Spiffo Is Our Hero' after another character just out of

Mr Knowall himself may look

Mr Knowall himself may look like Noddy Holder's long-lost brother but it's actually Old Warley councillor Steve Trow, leading the procession as part of a street theatre project back in the 70s. Steve is the founder of Jubilee Arts, a community group that has just landed a Lottery grant of more than \$\frac{2}{4}0,000\$ to preserve the 20,000 images of its 20-year history.

LIKE the Pied Piper of by Adam Grinsell

And what a catalogue it is. From And what a catalogue it is. From punks to breakdancers, school plays to Sunday league, it is an amazing slice of Black Country history. The group now wants to hear from anyone captured in the pictures, which date from 1974 to 1994, to share their stories. All will then be documented as part of the Unseen Sandwell project, providing a unique record of some of the changing places and faces in the borough.

The material is currently uncatalogued and inaccessible to the catalogued and inaccessible to the public but will soon go on show at six events, where it is hoped people will share their stories and help bring the pictures to life. Project director Brendan Jackson said: "In some cases we know who the people in the images are, but in some we don't.

"For instance, one shot shows

Robert Mackenzie, of Smethwick breakdance group The Crazy Spades, taking part in a break-dance ballet that toured the coun-try in 1984." Mr Jackson added: "There's a real lack of that kind of material from the 70s and 80s. It's proba-bly in shoeboxes in people's attics, or has been thrown away, but we want people's images to supple-

or has been thrown away, but we want people's images to supplement the existing material."

Councillor Trow said: "The performance was all based on children's games, and trying to get them signed up to a summer play scheme. We would sing and play music, children would join us in Pied Piper fashion, and as we went along we would stop and play a game with them, before moving on to the next spot to gather more children to do it again." A website will be then be created with media, images, memorabilia, audio, texts images, memorabilia, audio, texts and learning materials



A self-portrait during the Oak Road Community Festival, 1981 or 1982

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Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and

\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply. for all breaks

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

## Faggots find gourmet favour

AFTER years of derision by the gourmet fraternity, it seems that the great Black Country faggot has finally made it into polities society after becoming a favourite with upmarket supermarket chain Waitrose.

The food store, often seen as a by-word for middle class respectability, has been so impressed with the sale of its pork faggots that it has decided to expand its range by introducing a beef version. But the announcement has been met by a sceptical response from top Black Country chef Richard James, who is co-author of the Good Faggot Guide.

"They might be very nice, but they are not faggots if they are made from beef," he said.

"I would be very interested to give them a y, and see what they are like, but if they re made from beef they are not a tradi-

# Gambler to pay price for lies over car-jacking a

A GAMBLER who lost £250 at a casino hours after pocketing the cash from a car sale told police he had been violently robbed by the buyers in a bid to claw back his losses.

Dawid Dytlow, 22, sold his Honda Accord to two men who responded to an online advert, but after losing the proceeds on fruit machines he dialled 999 to claim he had

been car-jacked on a test drive.

The car was circulated as wanted on national police computers and, when it triggered Auto-

matic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras near Nuneaton, the innocent buyers were arrested on suspicion of robbery.

Dytlow, from Green Park Road, Dudley, said he had been attacked by the 'car-jackers' and left with facial cuts and bruises. But it later emerged the injuries had actually been inflicted during an argument sparked by news of his wasteful casino trip. The suspects were freed without charge and CCTV from Dudley Casino, where Dytlow was a member showed him gambling at the time he claimed the robbers had struck.

Dytlow admitted making up the story in a bid to make an insurance claim. He was jailed for

course of justice.

course of justice.

Detective Constable Darren Reeves, from Dudley CID, said: "Dytlow may have thought this was a 'white lie' that would result in a ticking off should the plan be uncovered but this was a serious case of trying to pervert the course of justice that wasted countless police hours and resulted in the arrest of innocent men.

"Dytlow signed a statement swearing his version of events was an honest, accurate version but it couldn't have been further from the truth.

"He's now paying a high price for those lies."

## Fire chiefs put pressure on tax

CASH-STRAPPED fire bosses in the West Midlands are increasing the service's portion of council tax amid stark warnings on future budgets. West Midlands Fire Service charges a pre-

cept as part of council tax to raise cash to pay for fire and rescue services. Members of West Midlands Fire Authority agreed to levy an in-crease amounting to 1.99 per cent, which is the maximum increase allowed without call-

the maximum increase allowed without calling a referendum.
Finance chiefs have laid bare tough budget forecasts, warning the authority faces being £12 million in deficit by 2017/18.
But opposition councillors demanded members rethink plans to hit hard-pressed residents with hikes on their bills.
A majority of 15 to six voted in favour of the increase at the fire authority meeting last week.

## Illicit romance in a Brief Encounter



#### Rebecca Clee and Tony Stamp in Brief Encounter

THE classic British romance Brief Encounter is being staged by Dudley Little Theatre next month.
Adapted for the stage by Emma Rice from Noel Coward's screenplay for the 1945 film starring Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard, it will be performed at Netherton Arts Centre from March 12 to 15 at 7.30pm.

#### **Affair**

It tells of the love affair between a married woman and a doctor in 1930s suburbia with Rebecca Clee and Tony Stamp as the two leads.

Stamp as the two leads.

"The haunting love story features housewife Laura Jesson and Dr Alec Harvey and includes the characters that provide the backdrop to their story," said the theatre group's Christine Ridgeway. "It explores the thrill, pain and tenderness of an illicit affair as the principals struggle against the conventions of suburban life in the late 1930s."

Tickets cast \$7 (66 consessions) and are carriable for the conventions of suburban life in the late 1930s."

Tickets cost £7 (£6 concessions) and are available from Dudley Council Plus on (01384) 812812, from Chris on (01384) 872583, mobile 07582 318017 or via the website www.dudleylittletheatre.org.

## **Wolves fan to get** a Baggies tattoo

marathon?

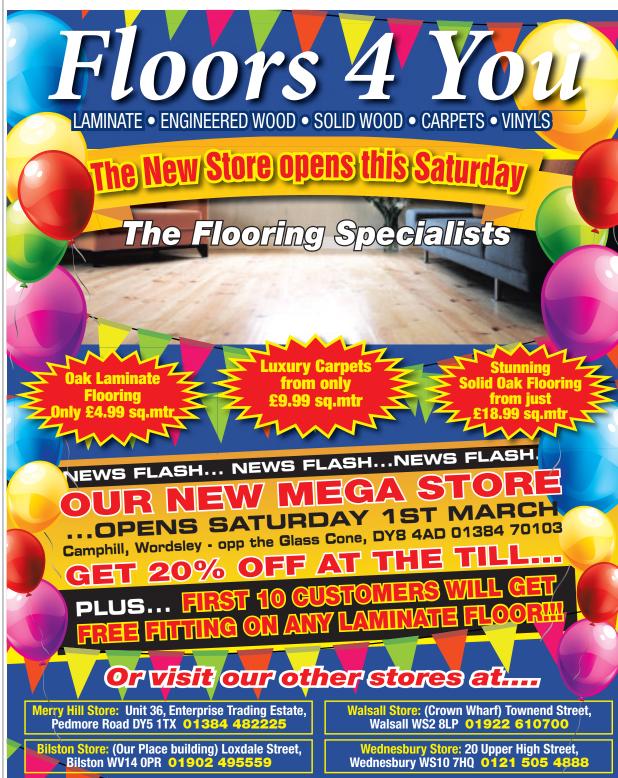
But Wolves fan Sean Watkins is prepared to go under the needle and get a West Bromwich Albion tattoo for charity. The 44-year-old is raising funds for Compton Hospice and has yound to Hospice and has vowed to be inked with the crest of his team's fiercest rivals.

It is to be carried out by Wolverhampton Tattooists New Romantic Ink and will have the words 'in aid of

HOW far would you go to Compton Hospice' wrapped raise cash for charity? Jump out of an aeroplane, get your legs waxed or run a #350 for the charity which marathon? around it. He will get the tattoo if he manages to raise £350 for the charity which helps people from the Black

Country. Mr Watkins, a Wolves fans for more than 20 years, already is no stranger to tattoos and already has the emblem of Wolves inked on his chest.

Donate online at www. justgiving.com/Creative forCompton or by texting WATS48 and the amount you wish to donate to 70070.





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ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543

ADVENTUROUS attractive lady seeks no strings casual times with discreet gent.

Tel: No. 0905 002 1957 Box 409991

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent.

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415

TAYLOR 21 black beautiful classy loves to have lots of fun and looks and status. To make me happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955

Box No: 409911 
HI I'm Jo, first timer,

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 408297

music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499 €

73YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at

heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331 🗒

NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible Itr. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479 🖞

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM with similar more than just friendship with similar chilleds, kind, easy going guy. Tel No: 0906 rights in with a good bottle of wine and engolon 395b 80x No: 110461 gr

ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very adminded and open. looking madyny, broadminder aird pein, looking but, looking for lines his meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 3955 Box No: 407943 de 409719 de RIBBLY 60 olus lady slir

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded e. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, 

per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

| Box No: 409895 | Mill attractive single lady new to area and ywho loves swimning, dancing and rimerests for adult friendship. and minterests for adult friendship. Tell No: 9906 500 3955 Box No: 409899 | SAM seeking lovely lady for great times and or living, looking for meen two friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and minterests for adult friendship. and am interests for adult friendship. Tell No: 9906 500 3955 Box No: 409899 | SAM seeking lovely lady for great times for concerts, cinema, seeks North Staffs (cinema, seeks North Staffs (cinema, seeks North Staffs) (oboxing for some fun. Tel No: 9906 500 3955 Box No: 409899 | SAM seeking lovely lady for great times for concerts, cinema, seeks North Staffs (cinema, seeks North Staffs) (oboxing for some fun. Tel No: 9906 500 3955 Box No: 409895 Box No: 409896 Box No: 409896 Box No: 409896 Box No: 409899 Box No: 409896 Box No: 409898 Box No: 409898

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for that special someone with outer for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fungood lovely male to put the sparife back into my life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409733 §

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks it o surings.

discreet meetings with male any age or spoken patient, independent location. Tel No. 0905 002 1956 Box non-judgmental man. Tel No. 0906 500 3955 Box No. 409723 0

ATTRACTIVE 49yr old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409955 🗒

ABBA giri bionde lookaline, size io, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151 €

NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955

HI I'm Jo, first timer, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409089 §

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out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. Tel No: 0906 500

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy

MIXED raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429

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minded male who is also looking for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311 🗒 BETHANY 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253

386019
3950 BOX No: 409763 g
409259 g
KATH blonde independent female, lady who loves good company, fine sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent meniood, travel, WLTM tall professional lady who enjoys most things WLTM caring for romance dates and hopeful It. Tel No: male with similar refined tates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627 g
0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925 g
Box No: 407925 g
Box No: 407955 g
Box No: 407955 g

TRACY slim dark haired beauty, petite hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTM loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship.

Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409419

SHARON very attractive British black lady, sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in love with. Beautiful people can be lonely too. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409263

MID naughty forties female looking fun thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109 🖺 ANITA very attractive black female

seeking mature white/Asian man to enjoy uncomplicated relationship with no ties. Any age, pls contact me, I'm very lonely. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408505

HI I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopeful ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933 🖁

FEMALE many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box

Corn old temale, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: HEATHER larger than life, cuddly built by 9006 500 3955 Box No: 406839 1 lady, scrubs up pretly well, employed, 68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out, Holking for sincere gent to share with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407307 €

500 3955 Box No: 363428

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

SUE attractive lonely brunette who loves versi indour, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? Tel No: 0906 500 3955

Box No: 407021 ft

plus who knows how to look aller a law, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407787 PAM 71, feels younger, lots to give, socialising, theatre, country walks, charity work, seeking male to share interests with.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407851

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TEXT IN NOW AND CHAT TO LOCAL JILL 50, altractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, PEOPLE. SEND: CHAT26 TO: 20098 rol ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, being treated like the princess 1 am, something nurse wanting healing hands looking for nice caring male up to 65yrs for adult fun times. Text Only Mailbox (for nice caring male up to 65yrs for adult fun times. Text Only Mailbox for no strings fun. No TLC required. To the olso has lots of love to give for hopeful Box No: 4234583 special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408869 ATTRACTIVE professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the special someone to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733 Box No: 408873 Special for the control of the professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the special someone to share life with. Tel No: 0908 500 3955 Box No: 408839 Spox No

Box No: 410737 ® ATTRACTIVE male, 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, things up a bit looking for clean well eyes, open minded, looking for female or discreet adult mannered professional for discreet adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410643 ® 406705 ® BROADMINDED and the standard of the standard or discreet adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410643 ® PETE 6ft 1 ins likes be a standard or discreet adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410643 ® PETE 6ft 1 ins likes be a standard or discreet adult meets.

discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409476 \$

3855 Box No: 410643 \$

3855 Box No: 409477 \$

3855 Box No: 409478 \$

3856 Box No: 409478 \$

385

PAT 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405985

SHELLEY 48, 5ft 5ins, brunette, seeking discreet relationship with male 48-52 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405795

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 CHRISTINA 38 very pretty petite trainee nurse looking for N/S male companionship to enjoy meals/drinks out, leading to more Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405243 \$\exists \text{SLIM} attractive man, tired of lonely nights, MANDY divorced independent 46yr old single mum, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407469 §

sel No: 09u6 500 3955 Box No: 405243 \$\( \) SLIM attractive man, tired of lonely nights, seeks genuine lady for friendship and booking for discreet fun with no strings or complications, any age, looks or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408973 \$\( \) PETE 6ft ins, body builder, likes kick female. 50-57 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 for No: 408973 \$\( \) TALL intelligent, professional fit guy, 50 and the complications, and any age, looks for status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408973 \$\( \) TALL intelligent, professional fit guy, 50 and the complex of the 405269

MARIA petitle curvy brunette, into keep fit, 410245 \$\( \frac{0}{2}\) more invex. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408991 \$\( \frac{0}{2}\) LONELY male, 55, seeks Indian/Jamaica Fel No: 10906 500 3955 Box No: 408997 \$\( \frac{0}{2}\) more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408991 \$\( \frac{0}{2}\) LONELY male, 55, seeks Indian/Jamaica Fel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408957 \$\( \frac{0}{2}\) more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408957 \$\( \frac{0}{2}\) more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408957 \$\( \frac{0}{2}\) more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408991 \$\( \frac{0}{2}\) THAC 132 \$\( \frac{0}{2}\) and 132 \$\( \frac{0}{2}\) more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408991 \$\( \frac{0}\) more. Tel No: 0906 500 39 NICKY 26 fun single female who has been on her own far too long desperately seeking her Prince Charming, must be tactile and possess the ability to fall in love, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407485

SHAZ 33 easygoing voluptuous black female with lovely smile and personality to match, loves music, keeping fit and looking good, WLTM appreciative guy Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819

WOMAN 55yrs old, N/S, size 14, likes animals, nature, reading, TV, quiet life, seeks man 45-55, N/S for friendship. No: 404447

WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTM younger gentleman with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

#### Men seeking women

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TOM 55, looking for female any age for a discreet fifty shades of grav friendship and special last. The shades of the shades of

407603 BCM active lady, 60's, N/S, seeks honest kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407003

MEDIUM build female, 66, widow, 5ft 5ins, A loving caring uny 54, who likes most kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407003

MEDIUM build female, 66, widow, 5ft 5ins, A loving caring uny 54, who likes most shings in life, would love to meet slim lady 45 to 59 for romance. Text Only Mailbox 80x No: 4170816

MEDIUM build female, 66, widow, 5ft 5ins, A loving caring uny 54, who likes most shings in life, would love to meet slim lady 45 to 59 for romance. Text Only Mailbox 80x No: 4170816

MEDIUM build female, 66, widow, 5ft 5ins, A loving caring uny 54, who likes most shings in life, would love to meet slim lady 45 to 59 for romance. Text Only Mailbox 80x No: 4170816

o+, seeking female, 40-51 for friend for friendship, maybe more friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409839 8

No: 9906 500 3955 Box No: 410589 

LOVING caring, considerate, romantic, Box No: 499207 

Box No: 4 good looking, professional, seeks tactile, slim-medium build female for special occasions and exotic holidays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407683 🗒

J LUCA 67, 5ft 3ins, seeking some one for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410375 J Luck 15 J Luck 16 J Luck

attractive, genuine female, 38-friendship and companionship. T 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410267

PETE 6ft 1ins, body builder, likes kick boxing, daughter, seeking female, 30-40 for love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

410207 (1) STEVE 40, 6ft, muscular, dark hair, half

STEVE 40, 6ft, muscular, dark hair, half Italian, seeks busty, classy lady, 55 plus for MARK 44, 6ft, dark hair, businessman, discreet adult fun. Where is my Sophia interesting, seeking sporty female for Loren? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 40529 6 No: 9096 500 3955 Box No: 408571

nan 45-55, N/S for friendship, company, seeking similar lady with GSOH nore. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410175 MALE 47, would like loving, adult relationship, age/size unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410107 🖰

shopping, seeking special female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410037 g own business, seeks male, any nationality, 0906 500 3955 Box No: 490897 g own business, seeks male, any nationality, 18-40 for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 490897 g own business, seeks male, any nationality, 18-40 good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 4909897 g own business, seeks male, any nationality, 18-45 for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409009 g

NICK GSOH, looking for someone caring to share fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410001 🗒

FT male, medium build, brown eyes, dark hair, fit, likes walks, football, holidays. country drives, seeks nice bubbly lady with likes trips out, holidays, seekling similar many interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409851

WOLFIE 42 Seeks Wendy for football PAUL 55, 6ft 2ins, intelligent, down to matches and nights in/out. Luvs gym earth, kind, genuine, honest, seeks keeping lit, seeking a nice girl for LTR. female, 50-60 for relationship, many Text Only Mailbox Box No: 2425943

SINGLE male, 31, 6ft brown eyes seeks

409783 §

lady with gsoh for fun and possible LTR.

MARK 6ft, blue eyes, slim, dark hair,
Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4267855
honest, loving, caring, down to earth, likes discreet fifty shades of grey friendship and special lady, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box fun. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4236310 No: 409803

Follow us on twitter Q.

LOCAL businessman, seeking special friend for friendship, maybe more. Tel No

music, DIY, seeks attractive lady to spoil and pamper. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409019 TONY 55, dark hair, 6ft, confident,

R, seeking FUN loving male, 47, lots to give, looking 88-50 for for genuine lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 Tel No: 3955 Box No: 409159

GENT 55, slightly mad, but not bad,

TALL intelligent, professional fit guy, 50's s kick female, 50-57 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 30-40 500 3955 Box No: 408991

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional gent, FUN loving male, 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, easy going, GSOH, likes sport, socialising, company, seeking similar lady with GSOH. and daytime relationship. Tel No: 0906 Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410175 500 3955 Box No: 408185

#### Men seeking men

## Friends



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BLONDE blue eyed 72yr old widow, GSOH, young at heart, seeks honest, caring gent of similar age for holidays, weekends away and happy times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407113

PAULA 38 single mum with OHAC, attractive blue eyes, size 14, seeking well built male with GSOH and honest/reliable

#### **REVIEWS**

# Charming with a touch of common

Some Girl I Used To Know, Grand STAR of stage and screen, cheeky Essex chick Denise Van Outen, has unique appeal – guys fancy her and girls relate to her, so it is no surprise that her one woman show, Some Girl I Used to Know, has received rave reviews and standing ovations on its 2014 tour so far.

And last week it was our turn to enjoy her very special brand of charm

enjoy her very special brand of charm with just a touch of common, as she opened at the Wolverhampton Grand

rhumba

in with the encore, Volare.  ${f LEON~BURAKOWSKI}$ 

Theatre for a three-night run which ended on Saturday.

Don't get me wrong, Tell Me on a Sunday it ain't, but this snapshot into the life of a successful business woman, Stephanie, who takes a nostalgic and amusing, but also often painful

gic and amusing, but also often paintuil trip down memory lane, is just as entertaining in its own way.

It follows high-flying wife and career girl Stephanie Canworth on a musical journey down memory lane.

Stephanie has it all—a successful

career, supportive husband and she's a media darling. But a Facebook poke from a former love and the memories come flooding back

come flooding back
It's a mixture of girly gags, slightly
smutty, but very real comedy and life
experiences, with hits of the 80s and
90s woven into the story for good measure

leasure. It was a must see for Denise devotees and those who simply want to sit back, relax and be entertained.

ALISON NORTON



# Joker is wild as the ballet returns

formed at the Civic Hall
The combination of their
irresistible 'rumba flamenca' style and possibly a
few glasses of Rioja meant
a troupe of middle-aged ladies were up and dancing in
the aisles by the third number as the portly band of
French-Spanish gipsy musicians hit their stride.
Dialogue with the audience was restricted to a
gracias, merci and the occasional thank you, until Nicolas Reyes - perhaps touched Birmingham Royal Ballet, Hippodrome DAVID Bintley's company kicked off their first home season of 2014 with a triple sional thank you, until Nicolas Reyes – perhaps touched by the warm applause for his acrobatic, muezzin-like vocals - told us he loved us. The Grammy-award winers saved the best known numbers for last but Bamboleo instead of being greeted by dancing was met by an audience more intent on recording the finale on their camera phones. But no one could resist joining in with the encore, Volare.

Card Game, choreography Card Game, choreography by John Cranko to music by Stravinsky, was a ballet in three deals with Jamie Bond as the mischievous Joker in the pack.

Hollywood actress Betty Hollywood actress betty Grable had the million dol-lar legs but that should apply to Celine Gittens. The Trinidad-born ballerina high-kicked to heaven with her perfect pins in the jazzy

Express & Star mna media

Slaughter on Tenth Avenue by George Balanchine to music by Richard Rodgers. She was perfectly matched with Tyrone Singleton's muscular Hoofer in this blend of ballet and tap.

Finally came the amusing and colourful Elite Synco-pations, choreographed by Kennth MacMillan to ragtime music. The comic Alaskan Rag, featuring Yvette Knight and James Barton,

was a real audience-pleaser.
This week BRB present
The Prince of the Pagodas.
LEON BURAKOWSKI

## Masters of their crafts

McCusker, McGoldrick
and Doyle
MAC Birmingham
HAVE you heard the one
about the Scotsman, the
Englishman and the Irishman . . . they got together
and created some glorious
Celtic/ folk music.
Never ones to short

Cltic/folk music.

Never ones to short change, John McCusker mostly on fiddle, Michael McGoldrick on flute, whistle and uillean pipes and John Doyle on a range of guitars and vocals opened with an instrumental which was almost 10 minutes long.

Individually the three musicians, who are regulars with the Transatlantic Sessions, are masters of their craft but together they produce a blend of sound which is magical, evocative and en-

is magical, evocative and en-compasses everything which is good with folk music.

compasses everything which is good with folk music. With a mixture of reels, jigs and sea shanties they showed their versatility and skills with tracks such as Leaving Uist, Rory Campbell's Song, Billy's Reel and the poignant SS Arabic about one of Doyle's ancestors who was inadvertently caught up in a U-Boat atack during World War One.

tack during World War One.

DANNY FARRAGHER

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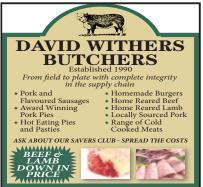
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## The Tall Ships Regatta at Greenwich

Two days departing September 6





PRICE FROM

This year London is set to host its largest Tall Ship Event in 25 years with up to 50 of the most spectacular ships in the world cruising up the River Thames.

Royal Greenwich has been nominated as the final port for the prestigious grand finale of Falmouth to Royal Greenwich Tall Ships Regatta 2014, where a wave of carnival entertainment and activities will create an unforgettable atmosphere.

With its rich maritime heritage and the longest riverfront in the city, Greenwich is the perfect location to see the event and gathering of the many ships on the shoreside. There is also the chance to step aboard some of the vessels

attractions at Greenwich include the National Maritime Museum, the Royal Observatory - a great baroque masterpiece of English Architecture, the opportunity to stand on the world famous Greenwich Meridan Line and the restored Cutty Sark - the fastest sailing ship of her day (some entrance charges apply).

A visit to the town of Royal Windsor is also on the itinerary where Windsor Castle, the Official Residence of Her Majesty The Queen is located (entrance charges apply), plus Frogmore House, Eton College, a great variety of shops, pubs and cafes, as well as the Great Park.

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
  Visit to Royal Greenwich for the
  Tall Ships Regatta

  Output

  Outpu
- Visit to Royal Windsor
- Single rooms subject to availability supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

#### Windsor Castle. **Tower of London** and Cutty Sark

Four days departing May 22, August 15, September 19



- Three nights half-board accommodation
  Entrances to Windsor Castle, Tower of London and the Cutty Sark
- Free time in Windsor and London
   Visit to Henley on Thames and Royal Greenwich
- Services of a tour driver
- ·Single rooms subject to availability supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

#### **Emmerdale and the Best of Yorkshire**

Three days departing May 9, June 27, September 19



Return coach travel

- Two nights half-board accommodation
  Tours of Emmerdale country, Last of the Summer Wine country and the Yorkshire Dales
- Visit to York
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability supplement applies

Special discount offer for bookings made before February 28, 2014, see brochure for details Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

### **Tour de France** London 2014

Two days departing July 6



PRICE FROM

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Viewing access to the Tour de France
   Services of a tour manager
- •Single rooms subject to availability supplement applies

Special discount offer for bookings made before February 28, 2014, see brochure for details Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Wimbledon

Two days departing July 5 and 6



PRICE FROM

£139

- Return coach travel Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Full day at Wimbledon with a reserved seat on No.1 Court to see the finals of the Junior and Veteran events
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a tour manager
  Single rooms subject to availability supplement applies

Special discount offer for bookings made before February 28, 2014, see brochure for details Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## The Edinburgh Royal Ascot Military Tattoo, **Rail and Steam**

Four days departing August 1

Return coach travel

PRICE FROM

Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
Two three-course evening meals
Ticket for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Return journey on the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway
 Circular Cruise on the SS Sir Walter Scott

Services of a tour driver
 Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

•Visits to Edinburgh, Aberfoyle and Gretna Green

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)



# on Ladies Day

Day trip departing June 19

Return coach travel



PRICE FROM £89 95

- •Brunch-time full English breakfast with a glass of

The Battlefields of

- Admission to the Silver Ring enclosure (upgrade offered)
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

**World War One** 

Four days departing June 6 and 13,

August 15, September 12, October 10

## Scarborough, Whitby and York

Four days departing April 11 and June 20



PRICE FROM

£209

- Return coach travel Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Scarborough, Whitby, York and Harrogate
   Optional North York Moors Railway excursion offered
- •Single rooms subject to availability supplement applies

## Oban, Mull, Iona and Skye

Five days departing April 13, July 20, September 21, October 5



PRICE FROM

£339

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation on outward
- journey

  Three nights half-board accommodation in the Oban
- and Fort William area

  Tour of the Isles of Mull, Iona and Skye
- Visit to Tobermory
- Free time to explore Oban
- Services of a tour driver
- •Single rooms subject to availability supplement applies
- Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

### Lake Garda, **Venice and Verona**

Eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM

- •Return flights
  •Seven nights half-board accommodation Tour of Lake Garda
- Guided tours of Verona and Venice
   Tour of the Dolomite mountains
- Services of a tour manager
   Single rooms subject to availability supplement applies

£619

£299

- Return coach travel and Channel crossings
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
   Full programme sightseeing the Somme and Ypres

PRICE FROM £209

- Salient

  Entrance to the Historial de la Grande Guerre museum

  Entrance to the In Flanders Field museum

  Visit to the Merin Gate

  Services of a tour manager

  Single rooms subject to availability supplement applies

  Special discount offer for bookings made before

  February 28, 2014, see brochure for deta

  Conspiced by Managrater (APTA 1/278/7)

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

### Vienna, Salzburg and the **Austrian Lakes**

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM

£789

- •Return flights
  •Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Guided tours of Salzburg and Vienna
- Optional excursions offered
   Services of a tour manager
- ·Single rooms subject to availability supplement applies

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Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

## St George's Day charity concert

charity concert
TICKETS are on sale
for a concert marking St
George's Day at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on
April 19.
The event is organised
by the Birmingham St
George's Day Association.
Comedians Don Maclean
and Malcom Stent are on
the bill with a mystery
guest. Also performing will
be Birmingham Community Gospel Choir, Sovereign Brass, the group Quill,
a local choir and school
children. Money raised will
go to Troop Aid.
The concert takes place
between 6pm and 9pm.

The concert takes place between 6pm and 9pm. Tickets are priced between £5 and £18.

Tickets can be bought at Birmingham Town Hall or Symphony Hall box office, by calling 0121 345 0603 or by visiting the www.thsh. co.uk website.

#### Neds top bill at indie all-dayer

EXPECT the return of the mosh pit, spilt pints and crowd surfing when Black Country rock leg-ends Ned's Atomic Dustbin

ends Ned's Atomic Dustbin top the bill at the Gigantic Classic Indie All-Dayer at Manchester Academy on Bank Holiday Monday, May 24.

Also on the bill will be one of the late John Peel's favourite bands The Wedding Present, Manchester's own The Chameleons, Yorshire's Cud, and Irish outfits The Sultans of Ping and The Frank And Walters.

Tickets for the 10-hour party cost £25. See www. manchesteracademy.net for further information.

# A conflict between church and science that still resonates

## Fame, it's gonna live forever

LEGWARMERS, jumps and poignant moments at the piano—it can only mean Fame.

Back in 1980 British di-

Back in 1980 British di-rector Alan Parker's movie about the tribulations and triumphs of young hopeful students at New York High School of Performing Arts was a surprise hit, spawn-ing a hit TV series and a 2009 movie remake.

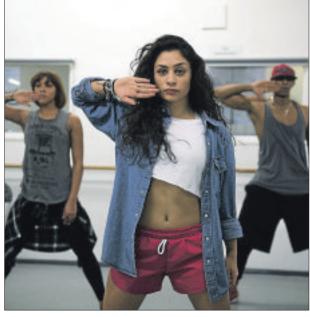
#### Musical

Musical

It also led to Fame The Musical, an international theatre hit which had a West End run and toured the UK, featuring the famous title song and such numbers as Hard Work, Let's Play A Love Scene and Think Of Meryl Streep.

The latest UK touring revival brings matters up to date by setting the story in 2014 when it arrives at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Monday for a six-day run — so expect

six-day run — so expect lots of dynamic dancing but fewer dodgy perms.



A scene from the new version of Fame The Musical, being staged in Wolverhampton

ence versus the church, a conflict down the ages that still resonates today is the subject of Birmingham Rep artistic director's new staging of A Life Of Galileo.

This is a rapid revival of her own acclaimed production, translated by Mark Ravenhill from the work by Marxist German playwright Bertolt Brecht. It won

praise when staged by the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford and will again feature Ian McDiarmid in the ti-

Ian McDiarmid in the ti-tle role.

It looks at the pioneering
Italian scientist's clash with
the Roman Catholic Church
in the early 17th Century
over his assertion that the
Earth orbits the Sun.

Earth orbits the Sun.
The play, staged at The
Rep from tomorrow night
to March 8, is presented
as part of a Brecht season
at the Centenary Square

at the Centenary Square venue.

The anarchic world of children's TV in the past (think Tiswas and Going Live) is the inspiration for Told By An Idiot's Never Try This At Home at The Rep's Studio from tonight to March 15.

At the theatre's third space, The Door, London Soho Theatre's darkly comic romance Blink, by Phil Porter, is being staged from Monday to Wednesday.

Before Fame The Musical leaps onto the stage, Wol-

#### Concert will be a tale of two cellos

"THEY say the cello is the "THEY say the cello is the closest instrument to the human voice. With 'A Tale of Two Cellos' we wanted to sing together in a universal language so that we could share this beautiful music, which spans nearly five hundred years, with everyone." So say husband and wife cello duo Julian and Jiaxin Lloyd Webber of their latest album for classical label Naxos.

The famous cellists will be performing together at

The famous cellists will be performing together at Cannock's Prince of Wales Theatre on Thursday, March 13, as part of a UK tour. There will be premiere duets for two cellos with piano as well as music by Vivaldi, Bach, Rachmaninov and Saint-Saëns.

The concert is at 7.30pm and tickets cost £18. Call 01543 578762 or visit www. wlct.org/cannock/theatre/

#### Award-winning folk duo at cafe

folk duo at cafe
WINNERS of the best duo
at this year's Radio2 Folk
Awards, Phillip Henry and
Hannah Martin, are heading to Birmingham.
They will be coming fresh
from their award-winning
appearance at the Royal
Albert Hall to play at the
Kitchen Garden Cafe in
Kings Heath on March 30
at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8
in advance or £10 on the
door. The West Country
pair have made a fantastic
leap considering that not so
long ago they were found
by Steve Knightley of
Show of Hands, busking on
Sidmouth seafront as part
of the town's folk festival.
Visit www.kitchengarden
cafe.co.uk.







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Leaving behind the industrial architecture of the north our train travels through the Yorkshire Dales for a spectacular journey over the magnificent high Pennines. The sheer scale of the scenery is apparent as we pass such famous landmarks as Blea Moor, Wild Boar Fell and Mallerstang, with stunning views of the magnificent three peaks. One fabulous sight follows another before we gradually descend into the tranquil Eden Valley and through the pretty Westmorland market town of Appleby.

On departure from Carlisle we return homeward with splendid views of the Lakeland Fells as the setting sun casts a golden glow over the mountains.

There are four classes of travel available but early booking is recommended

Pullman Dining Class - Prices from £220: Included in the meal service on board the train is Full English breakfast & four course Dinner with champagne, canapés and wine.

Premier Dining Class - Prices from £199: the meal service on board the train is the same as Pullman dining but excluding alcoholic drinks.

Standard & First Class - Prices from £74: No meals on the train but a Buffet Car is available throughout the journey for the sale of hot & cold beverages, light snacks and alcoholic drinks.

A deposit of just £20 per person will secure your booking - call Statesman Rail reservations on 0845 310 2458 or 2489, or book online www.statesmanrail.com

SETTLE &

lan McDiarmid as Galileo verhampton Grand hosts English Touring Theatre's passionate Eternal Love, the story of the 12th century romance between philosopher and student, Abelard and Heloise, through to Saturday. The lovers are played by real-life couple David Sturzaker and Jo Herbert. Rod Stewart musical Tonight's The Night is at the New Alexandra Theatre until Saturday. The Birmingham venue then hosts 1700s Scottish adventure Kidnapped on Monday night and Tuesday afternoon.

Ian McDiarmid as Galileo

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#### SATURDAY'S TV 1.03.14

#### CHOICE



Will.i.am

#### BBC1, 7pm The blind auditions are

complete and the coaches have chosen 12 acts each Now begins the process of Now begins the process of whittling them down by half for the live shows – and that means the return of the battle rounds. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes host as the coaches are joined by four advisers – Scissor Sisters frontman Scissor Sisters frontman
Jake Shears, singer Katy B,
award-winning rapper Tinie
Tempah and Black Eyed
Peas founder Dante
Santiago – who give the acts the benefit of their experience, before pitting them against each other in head-to-head musical

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 James Martin; Home Comforts. 12.00 Football Focus. 12.45 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 1.15 Cycling. 2.45 Bargain Hunt. (R) 3.30 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.00 Final Score. 5.10 Reliex. 5.55 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 6.15 Pointless Celebrities and Eddle "The Eagle" Edwards take part in the unorthodox general knowledge quiz. Last in the series. (R) 7.00 The Voice UK. The battle rounds begin as the coaches enlist four advisers—Jake

rounds begin as the coaches enist four advisers — Jake Shears, Katy B. Tinie Tempah and Dante Santiago — and pit their acts against each other in the sing-offs. The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin reveals the results of the Lotto and the Thunderbal

9.10

Casualty. Robyn injures herself after confronting an intruder in her home, and Lily shows her softer side while treating a heavily pregnant woman in severe

pain.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day, Gary
Lineker presents highlights
of the latest Premier League
ashes, which included
Finance Cottage; National Lottery
Update.

11.45 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two. 1.05 Weatherview. 1.10 BBC New

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.15 Film:
Jules Verne's Rocket to the Moon.
(1967) 8.10 Life on Earth. (R) 9.05
Marr's The Making of Modern
Britain. (R) 11.00 Fred Dibnah's
Made in Britain. (R) 11.30 Great
British Railway Journeys. (R)
12.00 James Martin: Home
Comforts. 12.30 Talking Pictures.
1.10 Film: The Lady Vanishes.
(1938) 2.45 Final Score. 4.00
Coast. (R) 4.15 Natural World: The
Real Jungle Book Bear. (R) 5.15
Restoration Lime One Year On. (R)
6.15 Figu III Paul Martin Lipidad
December of the Perfect Per as

Plog It! Paul Martin is joined by antique experts Mark Stacey and David Fletcher a they look for valuable items in Dorchester, Dorset. Dad's Army. Jones finds himself cast adrift. (R)

7.45 The Perfect Morecambe & Wise. A selection of sketches featuring the duo.

sketches featuring the duo.

8.15 Darcey's Ballerina
Heroines. Darcey Bussell
journeys from 18th-century
France to 1950s America to
explore the changing role of
the ballerina and the
challenges her predecessors

January Common Production of the Management of t

Musical comedy, starring Matthew Broderick and Nathan Lane.

12.35 Film: Lady Caroline Lamb. (1972) 2.35 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV- Dino Dan. 6.10 Dino Dan. (R) 6.25 Mott Hatter Chronicles, (R) 6.45 Canimals. (R) 6.55 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Canimals. (R) 7.20 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Scrambled! 9.25 Dinner Date. (R) 10.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.5 The Corocolide Hunter 11.25 The Crocolide Hunter 11.25 The Croco

Weather.5. 45 ITV News; Weather. 6.00 You've Been Framed! Best of the Best. Classic clips and Harry Hill's most surreal comments inspired by viewers' home videos, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful accidents.

accidents.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night
Takeaway. The Geordie duo
target chef Gordon Ramsay
with their latest stunt, Little
Ant and Dec meet Mr
Selfridge star Jeremy Piven
and comedienne Sarah
Millican is the guest
announcer.

announcer. **The Cube.** New series. Gym instructor Chris and student Sophie hope to beat the Cube and take home the £250,000 jackpot.

The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to The host chats to supermodel Claudia Schiffer, comedian Dara O Briain, Sex and the City actress Kristin Davis and rapper-turned-actor Ice Cube.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.
10.35 Film: Fast & Furious. (2009)

12.35 Jackpot247. 3.00 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.

#### **CHANNEL 4**

CHANNEL 35 The Grid.
7.80 Trans World Sport. 7.55
Paratympic Winter Games — The
Countdown. (R) 8.00 The Morning
Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves
Raymond. (R) 9.30 Everybody
Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Frasier.
(R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R)
11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R)
11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R)
11.20 How I Met Your Mother.
12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 The
Simpsons. (R) 1.30 Channel 4
Racing. 4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R)
5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40
Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40
Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.10 Come Dine with Me.

Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.10 Come Dine with Me.
Accountant Tonl Shukla
hosts the final dinner party in
Birmingham. (R)
6.40 Channel 4 News.
7.05 The Restoration Man.
Transforming a church in the
Devon fishing port of

8.00 The Storms That Stole
Christmas. The stories of
those who bore the brunt of
the bad weather over
Christmas 2013 and the

Christmas 2013 and the surrounding period, featuring amateur footage, eyewitness testimony and expert commentary. (R) Hostages. Ellen must decide whether to save Duncar's life and sets out to track down the life Nina When Boyd have all the boyd to the life of life of the life of life o

to help Morgan.

10.00 Film: The Lincoln Lawyer.
(2011) Premiere. Legal
thriller, starring Matthew
McConaughey.

12.15 Film: A History of Violence.
(2005) 2.00 Boss. 3.05 Mesh:
Covert. (R) 3.10 One Born Every
Minute. (R) 4.05 Kirstie's
Handmade Treasures. (R)

#### **DIGITAL CHANNEL 5**

6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Film: Jetsons: The Movie. (1990)

JUSTON THE STATE THE STATE OF T

Detective drama, starring Peter Falk.

6.30 The NCIS Movie: Payback. Feature-length episode. The agents try to locate a serial killer, but their investigation leads to a surprising revelation. Meanwhile, revelation. Meanwhile, Payback.

9.05 5 News Weekend.

9.10 Live interactional Book and the super middleweight Devote Coverage of the super middleweight bout at the City Academy in Bristol.

11.10 Film: Pistol Whipped.

Bristol. Clay Academy in Bristol.

1.10 Film: Pistol Whipped.
(2008) A former cop becomes a hitman to clear his debts, but hegins to suspect his employer is suspect his employer is suspect his employer is suspect his employer in the composition of the composit

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D 7.25 Doctor Who 8.10 Top Gear **9.10 Film:** I Am Nur 2011) **10.50** Family Guy

Listings supplied by Press Associati

7.00 Great Barrier Reef 8.00 Lost Kingdoms of South America 9.00 Salamander 10.35 What's Going On? The Life and Death of Marvin Gaye 11.35 Roll Over Beethoven-The Chess Records Saga

17V2
2.50 Film: Kangaroo Jack (2003)
4.40 Film: Step Up (2006) 6.55
Film: Ocean's Thirteen (2007) 9.20
Film: Forgetting Sarah Marshall
(2008) 11.30 Film: The Sweetest
Thing (2002)

Rosemary & Thyme 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Endeavour. Inspec Morse prequel, starring Shaun Evans. 11.00 A Touch of Frost 1TV4

1TV4
2.40 Film: The Manchurian
Candidate (1962) 5.15 Film:
Nevada Smith (1966) 7.55
Hornblower. The seafaring hero's
resourcefulness turns the tide of a
battle. 10.00 Film: Schindler's List
(1993)

E4
4.00 Rude(ish) Tube 5.00 The Big
Bang Theory: Access All Areas 5.30
The Big Bang Theory 6.30 The Big
Bang Theory: It All Started with a
Big Bang 7.00 How I Met Your
Mother 8.00 The Tomorrow People
9.00 Film: Trading Places (1983)
11.20 Rude Tube: Viral Ads

Film4
3.15 Imagine That (2009) 5.20 The Phantom (1996) 7.15 Bedazzled (2000) Fantasy comedy remake, starring Brendan Fraser. 9.00 The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009) 11.05 28 Days Later (2002)

Love later life

# language: 1.05 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. 3.05 Benidorm ER. (R) 4.00 Wildlie SOS. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 May Ender Show. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.05 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.20 Language Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.25 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.25 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.26 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.26 Hana's Helpline. (R)

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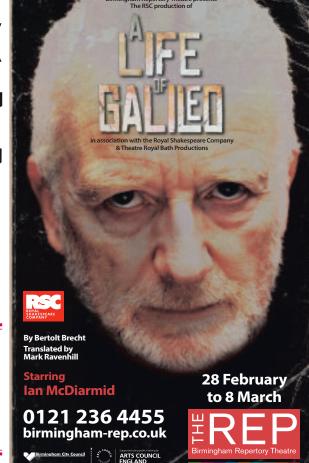
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#### **SUNDAY'S TV** 2.03.14

#### CHOICE



**Kelly Hoppen** 

### Dragons' Den BBC2, 9pm

It's always fun to play along while watching telly, especially if you're playing "guess Peter Jones' next "guess Peter Jones' next
pun" on Dragons' Den.
Here, he and fellow
Dragons Duncan
Bannatyne, Deborah
Meaden, Kelly Hoppen and Piers Linney meet two women with an alpaca-based knitwear company, based knitwear company, but will Peter accuse them of 'spinning a yarn', or ask them to get down to the 'knitty gritty' of their proposal? Among the other would-be entrepreneurs is the director of a London-

based design company with a new take on the sticky

6.00 Breakfast, 7.40 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics, 12.15 MorTD2 Extra. 1.00 BBC News: Weather, 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.15 The Indian Doctor. (R) 3.00 Hz. (R) 4.10 Decision of the MorTD2 Extra. 10.00 BBC News: Weather, 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.15 Hz. (R) 1.15 Hz.

6.05 BBC News; Regional News; Weather

- 6.30 Blandings. Clarence must prevent his brother from publishing his scandalous mamoire.
- publishing his scandalous memoirs.

  7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker explores Elmley Marshes on the Isle of Sheppey off the coast of Kent. Ellie Harrison in Isle of Sheppey off the coast of Kent. Ellie Harrison in Isle of Sheppey off the coast of Kent. Ellie Harrison in Isle of Shellon is in the Willishire countryside. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

  8.00 Call the Midwife. A new mum and her baby go missing, Jenny begins to see cracks in the establishment Chummy discovers her mother has walked out on her father.

  9.00 The Musketeers. The swordsmen help a young mother rescue her kidnapped baby son, while the king is reluctantly reunited with his reluctantly reunited with his
- vavy son, while the king is reluctantly reunited with his scheming mother Marie de Medici.
- 10.00 BBC News; Weather. 10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Swansea City v Crystal Palace.
- 11.30 The League Cup Show.

ivianchester City v Sunderland. 12.10 Weatherview. 12.15 BBC News

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.10 Film: School for Scoundrels. (1960) 7.40 Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) 8.40 Countryfile. (R) 9.40 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.10 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 11.55 Michel Roux Service. (R) 12.55 Michel Roux Service. (R) 1.55 Michel Roux Service. (R) 1.55 English (1950) 4.00 Cycling. 153 General Country (1950) 4.00 Cycling. 153 Central Country (1950) 4.00 Cycling. 154 Central Country (1950) 4.00 Cycling. 155 Central Country (1950) 4.00 Cycling. 155 Central Country (1950) 4.00 Cycling. 155 Central Country (1950) 4.00 Cycling.

- count. vertigo. (1988) 4.00 Cycling.
  5.35 Glant Squid: Filming the
  Impossible Natural World
  Special. (R)
  6.20 Film: Invincible. (2006)
  Fact-based sporting drama
  about an American football
  fan given the chance to play
  for the team he has
  supported all his life. With
  Mark Wahlberg, Greg
  Kinnear and Elizabeth Banks.
  8.00 Top Gear. Richard Hammond
  drives the Porsche 918
  Spyder and Jeremy Clarkson
  creates a public Information
  lim with James May 10
  lim with James May 10
  lim with James May 10
  lim With Breaking Bad star Aaron
  Paul.

  9.00 Pageons Page.
- Dragons' Den. A London-hased entrepreneur pitches a based entrepreneur pitches a new take on the sticky note, and two women bring a pair of alpacas as they try to gain funds for their knitwear business. Last in the series.
- 10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Science and Technology. Another themed selection from the show's archives. (R)
- archives. (R)

  10.30 Line of Duty. Denton reveals a high-ranking officer has a motive for framing her. (R)

  11.30 Film: The Mission. (1986) Historical drama, with Robert De Niro and Jeremy Irons.

  1.30 Sign 70pe: Country
- 1.30 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 2.25 Holby City. (R) 3.25 Silk. (R) 4.25 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan, 6.10 Dino Dan, (R) 6.25 Matt Hatter Chronicles, (R) 6.45 Canimals, (R) 6.56 Canimals, (R) 7.00 Canimals, (R) 7.10 M Nom Stories, (R) 7.15 Dm Nom Stories, (R) 7.15 Dm Nom Stories, (R) 7.20 Sooty, (R) 7.30 Scrambied! 9.25 Murder, She Wrote, (R) 10.25 Dickinson's Real Deal, (R) 11.25 ID Klinson's Real Deal, (R) 11.25 ID Klinson's Real Deal, (R) 12.30 Film: Columbo: Death Hist the Jackpot, (1991) 2.30 The Crocodile Hunter Diaries, (R) 3.30 Film: Diamonds are Forever (1971) 5.50 Regional Programme; Weather.

- 6.00 ITV News; Weather ITV News; Weather.
  Dancing on Ice. Phillip
  Schofield and Christine
  Bleakley host the semi-final,
  and the competition is sure
  to be intense with only three
  grabs. The results are at
  3.0pm.
  All Star Family Fortunes.
  Coronation Street special of
  the game show. Last in the
  series.
- Dancing on Ice: The Skate
  Off. The two lowest-scoring
  couples compete. Last in the
- series.

  Mr Selfridge. Following
  Henri's arrest and Harry's
  disappearance, the police
  visit the Selfridges' home in
  search of clues. Agnes
- 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.
  10.15 It'll Be Alright on the Night's
  Best of the Worst.

best of the Worst.
Compilation of clangers from the programme's history. (R)
11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.
12.15 The Store. 2.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.45 TTV
Nightscreen.

#### **CHANNEL 4**

6.20 The Hoobs. (R) 6.45 The Hoobs. (R) 7.10 Freesports on 4.7.35 Arenacross 8.00 Film Superbike World Championship. 8.35 Soch Special: Paralympip. 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.35 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.30 How! Met Your Mother. 2.25 The Simpsons. (R) 2.56 The Simpsons. (R) 3.20 Deal Champions (R) 4.25 Film Grease. (1978) 6.30 Champions. (R) 6.30

#### Channel 4 News.

Channel 4 News. Fish Fight: Hugh's Last Stand. Follow-up documentary in which Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall tells the story of how hundreds of thousands of people came together to bring about radical reforms to fishing poli

- policies.
  Britain's Bronze Age
  Mummies: A Time Team
  Special. Tony Robinson
  follows an archaeological dig
  on a burial ground in
  Northumberland and
  investigates other finds that
  are changing people's
  understanding of the Bronze
- Film: Salt. (2010) A CIA
- 9.00 Film: Salt. (2010) A CIA agent goes on the run after she is accused of being a sleeper assassin sent to president. Action thriller, starring Angelina Jolle and Liev Schreiber.

  11.00 Film: Predator. (1987) A military team on a mission in a Central American jungle encounters a merciless allen hunter in search of human Arnold Schwarzenegger.
- 1.00 Film: The Fountain. (2006) 2.35 One Born Every Minute. (R)

#### **CHANNEL 5**

CHANNEL 5
6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05
Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifl and the Flowertots. (R) 6.25 Bubble Standard Car. (R) 6.25 Bubble Show (R) 6.50 Choles Choset (R) 7.00 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.00 End of Friends. (R) 7.25 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.35 City of Friends. (R) 7.25 Tooly Choles Chol

Film: Ine Film Etement.
(1997) So-fil adventure,
 So-fil a

Melling.

1.35 SuperCasino. 3.05 Trauma
Doctors. (R) 4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R)
4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.45 The
Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.00 Angels
of Jarm. (R) 5.05 Hanas Helpline.
(R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.25
The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40
Hana's Helpline. (R)

#### **DIGITAL**

BBC Three 7.00 The Voice UK 9.15 Hair 10.15 Family Guy 11.00 Bluestone 42 11.30 American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 Timeshift: The Golden
Age of Coach Travel 8.00 The
Fairytale Castles of King Ludwig II
with Dan Cruickshank 9.00
Timewatch: Captain Cook – The
Man Behind the Legend 10.00
Film: Barbara (2012) 11.40
Timeshift: The Golden Age of
Coach Travel
ITV2

ITV2
2.15 Film: Step Up (2006) 4.25 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway 5.45 Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) 7.55 Film: Coyote Ugly (2000) 10.00 The Only Way Issex 10.50 Party Wright Around the World 11.50 The Big Reunion 2014

17V4
3.05 Tim Vine's Punslinger 4.25
Film: The Sting (1973) 7.00
Storage Wars 8.00 Premiership
Rugby Union 9.00 Film: Memphis
Belle (1990) 11.10 Hell on Wheels

54 3.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 4.00 The Tomorrow People 5.00 Troy 6.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 6.30 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: 10 Things I Hate About You (1999) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory 10.30 My Mad Fat Diary 11.30 How I Met Your Mother

Z.55 Stardust (2007) 5.20 Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) 7.05 The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) 9.00 Sanctum (2011) 11.10 Pride and Glory (2008)

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## **Film Choices**

Monday Lethal Obsession, Channel 5, 3.15pm Letnat obsession, nanner 3, 15pm
A woman with a troubled mary 3,15pm
funeral, and is reunited with her dangerously
overprotective brother. He initially seems to have moved
on from his past obsessive behaviour, but when people
around her start disappearing, she realises he is killing
anyone he disapproves of – and her husband may be
next. Theiling setting killing Martin and Ametin and kt. Thriller, starring Kellie Martin and Adam MacDonald, (2007

#### Mercenary for Justice, Channel 5, 11pm

A soldier for hire vows to look after the wife and son of a dead comrade-in-arms, but the family is kidnapped by a rogue CIA faction. The mercenary is forced to carry out a dangerous mission to break into a notorious South African prison and free the son of an arms dealer. Action thriller, starring Steven Seagal, Jacqueline Lord, Roger Guenveur Smith and Luke Goss. (2006)

Tuesday
Deadly Isolation, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A widow is unaware her academic husband led a double life as a jewel thief, and was once involved in the theft of \$20million in diamonds. However, when his two partners in crime are released from prison, they come looking for her, believing she has the gems. Thriller, starring Sherilyn Fenn and Nicholas Lea. (2005)



d Trade Center, Wednesday, Channel 4, 12.05am

#### World Trade Center, Channel 4, 12,05am

Fact-based drama inspired by the events of September 11. The film focuses on two police officers who were trapped in the wreckage of one of the Twin Towers while

they oversaw the evacuation, and examines the effects of the tragic incident on their families. Directed by Oliver Stone and starring Nicolas Cage, Maria Bello, Michael Pena and Maggie Gyllenhaal. (2006)

#### Thursday Obsession, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Obsession, Channel 5, 5.15pm
A woman receives a promotion at work that entails moving to a different city, so decides to end her relationship with her boyfriend and make a fresh start. However, he does not take kindly to the rejection. Thriller, starring Charisma Carpenter. (2011)

The Proposal, BBC1, 10.35pm

A Canadian publishing editor working in New York faces deportation to her own country. Desperate to stay in America, she offers her assistant a promotion if he will marry her, but an immigration official becomes suspicious and the pair are forced to go to desperate lengths to look like a happy couple. Romantic comedy, starring Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds. (2009)

### **Pick of the Week**

## **Everyday menus for** special occasions

ary Berry may be 78, an age when most people are concentrating on relaxing rather than reaching the peak of their career, but she's bigger and more popular than ever.

Nobody could have foreseen what a phenomenon that show would end up being, and how it would suddenly turn Mary into a national

treasure.

Okay, so long-standing foodles were already aware of her thanks to her recipe books and earlier TV experiences, but none of those brought her the same kind of exposure as the Bake Off did.

She'll be back for a new run of that later in the year when the show moves to BBC1, but for now, she's on BBC2 again, this time presenting six-part series, in which she offers tips for nervous cooks from her own kitchen.

Mary hopes to inspire people to prepare meals for both everyday and special occasions, including meals

that will appeal to every member of the family, young and old.

As ever, Mary delivers her advice in her firm but fair, gentle yet easy-to-understand way – and she likes to keep it straightforward, too.

"First of all, you have to decide what you're going to do," she says when asked for advice on what to cook for a

unner party.

"Go simple and don't try something you haven't done before. It's a good idea to have the first course and the pud chilled, and then you can concentrate on the main meal.

"I don't want anything last-minute because anything can happen. I do try to plan, because I want to be with my guests. It's all about them, and they don't want to see you stressed. And if you're in the kitchen cooking with them, they can watch you, and people like that."

people like trat.
Unlike some TV chefs, she
doesn't like to bombard viewers with
ingredients they may never have
heard of: "It's very important that the
recipes work and contain
ingredients that everybody can buy

from their local supermarkets." Amen to that!

Amen to that:

She kicks off the series by offering ideas for a traditional tea party. You'll certainly never look at sandwiches in the same way again, and will be rushing out to buy the ingredients to make Mary's mouth-watering bitesized scones too.

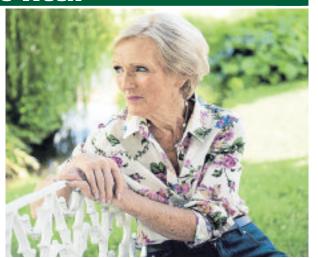
Her granddaughters also make a guest appearance while helping her make orange butterfly cakes.

As for Mary's dream guests, who would she choose? Alongside her beloved family, she has a very special couple in mind.

couple in mind.

"would like to have the Duke and Duchess and Cambridge," she smiles. "Idid actually meet them while working with the charity Child Bereavement UK. It would be lovely to cook for them because one day he's going to be the king of England.

"I know what they like, because they use my cookery books. Id have to do a pudding with brandy for Katherine and William, I think, would like tallagio chicken. They are in very good shape so I wouldn't want to go too verboard!"



Mary Berry Cooks, Monday, BBC2, 8.30pm

## **Best of the Rest**

Line of Duty, We

#### Monday

#### Never Knew That About Britain

Author Christopher Winn loves trivia, which is why ne came up with the idea for a book called I Never Recame up with the local of a book called investigation. Knew That About England, and when it became a hit, followed it with tomes about Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Each edition featured little-known facts about each country, and went on to be the inspiration for this new, eight-part series. Paul Martin, Suzannah Lipscomb and Steve Mould investigate weird and wonderful places and people rom the past, and begin with remarkable tales involving an unsung hero with connections to the Spitfire and, bizarrely, the folding buggy, the Welsh women who battled Napoleon and the chap whose experiments helped the development of pain relief.

BBC1, 9pm Writer Peter Moffat's idea for this series was to capture the 'extreme pressure, the hard choices, the ethical dilemmas,' of life as a barrister, and the latest offering does that rather well. Martha (Maxine Peake) is assigned to defend a footballer accused of a pitch assault on another player. Considering the incident had thousands of witnesses, it seems she's finally hitten off more than she can chew It doesn't help that her client is reluctant to cooperate and help his defence, so she must get him on side to discover a secret he's determined to keep hidden from the football world. Also this week chambers are shocked by a resignation and Billy (Neil Stuke) takes steps to ensure Shoe Lane's

#### Tuesday Death in Paradise BBC1, 9pm

Emma Redding is a retired lifesaver who was due to turn up at a party, but when she doesn't show or answer her phone, it sets alarm bells ringing. Her door is forced open and she's found dead on her bed with an empty packet of sleeping pills at her side. Two key questions dominate the case: how did the alleged killer get out of her locked room. and could one of Emma's so-called friends be the

## Wednesday Left for Dead by the Yorkshire Ripper

as she walked home.

Channel 5, 8pm

Be warned: this won't make for easy viewing However, if anyone's happy putting a challenging and thought-provoking documentary about serial killers out there under an eye-catching title, it's Channel 5. This particularly harrowing film - shown surprisingly, before the watershed – focuses on one of Britain's most notorious murderers, Peter Sutcliffe, or the Yorkshire Ripper. Over the course of his five-year reign of terror, he killed 13 women and attempted to murder eight more, and we hear from some of those survivors who recount Sutcliffe's attacks blow-by-blow. They include Marylyn Moore, who has never told her story before on television, and Tracy Browne, who describes how, when she was a 14-year-old schoolgirl, she was attacked

#### Line of Duty

BBC2, 9pm
Thanks to its authentic police procedural action, the first series of this tense drama is one of the more compelling examples of its genre we have seen in a long while. This series has been progressing at a real pace, and tonight sees Arnott uncover evidence that a tracker had been planted on one of the vehicles in the police convoy which was ambushed. Sole survivor Lindsay Denton,

meanwhile, implies that Deputy Chief Constable Dryden was embroiled in a wider conspiracy – a when a series of video recordings made by the witness while in protective custody are discovered. it's not long before the AC-12 officers begin to

realise she's right – but it may be too late as she's in danger. Thursday

Coronation Street: A Moving Story ITV, 9pm
For more than half a century, Coronation Street has captured the hearts of the

nation from the same location in Manchester However, all that has changed recently. During the past two vears a new set has been built to house the Rovers Dev's shop

Underworld, and all those beloved homes. Of course for many long-term residents of the Street it's been an emotional upheaval moving to a different set. Here, cameras cover the final week of filming in December 2013 at Granada Studios, and document the cast and crew's move two miles away to MediaCity UK at Salford Quavs

#### DIY SOS: The Big Build

#### BBC1. 9pm

BBC golden boy Nick Knowles is a busy man at the moment – if he's not doting on his pregnant wife ahead the birth of their baby boy in the summer, he can usually be found doling out good news in various National Lottery game shows of a Saturday evening. He's going to meet himself coming backwards one of these days, but no matter how hectic his schedule gets, he'll always have time for DIY SOS. This week, he and the team are coming to the aid of Paul Makings, whose wife died shortly after she gave birth to their sixth child.

#### Friday Gogglebox Channel 4, 9pm

Okay, watching people watching telly really shouldn't be so addictive. But it is, thanks to this Big Brother-style series which has proved a hit with the nation. Whatever the reason for its likeability, bosses have thought it popular enough to bring it back for a third series, and in a Friday night primetime slot nonetheless. Narrated by Caroline Aherne, the series will feature the opinionated British households that have become so well-

recognised, as well as some new faces

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Sudoku

3

2

9

#### Puzzler

6 2

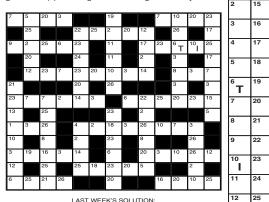
5

## **Brain Gym**

No.262

#### Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



 $^{2}$ F  $^{3}$ M  $^{4}$ N  $^{5}$ E  $^{6}$ H  $^{7}$ P  $^{8}$ D  $^{9}$ J  $^{10}$ R  $^{11}$ T  $^{12}$ W  $^{13}$ A

Î | | S | G | Y | V | K | O | Z | C | Q | L | B

#### **Double Crossword**

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

#### **Cryptic Clues:**

- 7. Killing time officially (7.6)
- 8. Don't give up get-
- ting the unit back in shape (8)
- 9. Two-way agree ment (4)
- 10. We arrange sale of an animal (6)
- 12. Stern test or trans action (6)
- 14. Inferior type of
- 16. Mother and son supply fruit (6)
- 18. It's sung in varia tions (4)
- 20. Produce green tea perhaps (8)
- 22. Arrogant description of Everest?

#### Down

- 1. The Poles are, but not the N. and S. ones (8)
- 2. Expresses conditions (6) 3. Soon unknown (4)
- 4. New radio set of astronomical impor tance (8)
- 5. I dread to be attacked (6)
- 6. A wooden trunk (4) 11. Man in a suit (8)
- 13. A top seat for a renegade (8)
- 15. Heartily dislike a hotel under recon-
- struction (6) 17. An illusion of heat (6)
- 19. It flies or takes a train (4)
- 21. Possibly mean to

#### Quick Clues:

#### Across 7. Absolutely necessary (13)

- 9. Space (4)
- 10. Fondle (6)
- 12. Aptitude (6)
- 14. Alcove (6)
- 16. Distant (6)
- 18. Fashionable (4)
- 20. Demonstrative (8)

- 1. Point out (8)
- 2. Uncomplicated (6)
- 3. Frank (4)
- 4. Forefather (8)
- 5. Cask (6)
- 6. Too (4)
- 11. Uneasy uncertainty (8)
- 13. Birth of Christ (8)
- **15.** Get free (6) 17. Meditation (6)
- 19. Greet (4)

2

3

boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

every row and each of the 3x3

Fill in the grid below so that every column

8

6

6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Stud; 8 Infallible; 9 Attended; 10 Ends; 12 Yeady; 14 Eat out; 15 Miller; 17
Stroli; 18 Left; 19 Contract; 21 Man of parts; 22
Hang. Down: 2 Toe the line; 3 Dime; 4 Off day; 5 Pledge; 6 Director; 7 Pews; 11 Double chin; 13 Relation; 16 Recipe; 17 Sundry; 18 Lima; 20
Rush. QUICK - Across: 1 Lass; 8 Triumphant; 9 Complete; 10 Seap; 12 Artis; 14 Evroice; 15
Electroic 15 Sear; 19 Maneater; 2 Selectroic 15 Dept. 15 Sea; 19 Maneater; 21 Selectroic 15 Dept. 15 Sea; 19 Maneater; 11 Excel lence; 13 Intermix; 16 Commit; 17 Tendon; 18
Stft; 20 Also.







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# Four-bedroom house has views over golf course



Road, Bloxwich, overlooks Bloxwich Golf Club. It is for sale through Marri-

on & Co at £349,950.

With gas central heating and double glazing, the detached home has a cloakroom, two reception rooms, study, kitchen/breakfast area, utility, four well proportioned bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite large bathroom. There is large landscaped garden. The hall has a spindled balustrade staircase to the first floor and is large landscaped garden. The hall has a spindled balustrade staircase to the first floor and laminate flooring. The front dining room has a marble fireplace with raised hearth and mantle, a picture window and flooring with a bespoke inlay. The extended lounge has a rustic brick chimney breast fireplace with flame effect electric fire and French doors to the garden. The kitchen has light oak units and granite surfaces, gas cooker, fridge, freezer, dishwasher and warm air plinth heating. Contact Marrion & Co on 01922 404446 or visit www.marrion.co.uk



# Detached home has been extended







AN EXTENDED and detached home with a 19ft kitchen/diner in Narrow Lane, Hale-sowen, is for sale through Humberstones Homes at £209,950. With gas central heating and double glaz-

With gas central heating and double glazing and plenty of parking, it has a porch, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, a utility, conservatory, study, a second lounge, WC, three bedrooms, a bathroom and gardens.

The entrance hall has under-stair storage, the lounge has a feature fireplace with a living flame effect gas fire. The kitchen area has space for a range style cooker, work surfacing and splashback tiling. The utility has plumbing for an automatic washing machine and dishwasher. Upstairs the bathroom has a white suite withshower over and shower screen. Contact Humberstones Homes on 0121 678 7788 or visit www.hum berstoneshomes.co.uk berstoneshomes.co.uk



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drooms & REFITTED bathroom with separate shower Charming cottage style mature rear garden. Gas C/H and VC D/G. EPC rating: E Ref: D1403

ear verandah. REFITTED bathroom & 3 bedrooms o 1st floor, BLOCKPAVED driveway leading to garage a front. UPVC DG & gas central heating fitted. EPC rating



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DOUBLE bedrooms & bathroom with modern white suite

UPVC DG & gas central heating fitted. Gardens to from

& rear. Good road for bus services/routes. EPC rating



SPACIOUS 1st floor apartment with ALLOCATED PARKING. 17ft lounge diner & FITTED 10ft kitchen 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & a box room, Bathroom with shower cubicle also. Gas central heating & UPVC double glazing. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating: C Ref: D1376 £99,950 Ref: D1376



& rear. Gas central heating & majority UPVC DG CLOSE TO BEARWOOD HIGH ST, WARLEY WOODS & LIGHTWOODS PARK. EPC rating: F Ref: D1351 £148,950 Ref: D1351



SPACIOUS terraced home with NO UPWARD CHAIN, NO BRICK/NON STANDARD CONSTRUCTION. 23ft lounge diner & 9ft9 kitchen. 3 bedrooms & shower room on 1st floor, Gas central heating & UPVC glazing fitted, CUL-

## **Property**

# A stylishly refurbished semi-detached home





STYLISHLY refurbished traditional three bedroomed semi-detached home, Pensnett Road, Holly Hall, Dudley, is ideal for the discerning young family.

Close to Russells Hall Hospital, it is for sale through Jon Stanier at £124,950.

It has a reception hall, lounge, re-fitted dining kitchen with white units and wood-effect work surfaces, an attractive re-appointed bathroom pleasant good sized rear gardens and parking for two cars. Contact Jon Sta-nier on 01384 77877 or visit the www.





# **Stylish four-bed house** has lots to offer buyer



ed and fitted four-bedroomed detached house in Flamborough Way, Coseley, features a stylish kitchen and bathroom. It is for sale through Dixons at offers over £190,000.

It has an entrance hall, lounge with a modern feature fireplace and front-facing bay window, dining room with wood-effect flooring and sliding

patio doors out to the rear garden, kitchen, utility, downstairs WC.
Upstairs there is a fully tiled modern bathroom suite, a master bedroom with en suite and three further

room with en suite and three further good sized bedrooms There is a rear garden, ample driveway and a garage. For further information contact Dixons on 01384 847254 or visit the







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Clement Road, Halesowen



Extended traditional three bedroom terraced house for sale. The property benefits from two reception rooms. Halesowen.





Offers Over£160,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, two reception rooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Worcester Road, Dudley



Offers Over£70,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising downstairs shower room, lounge, kitchen, upstairs WC and rear gardens.

Beecher Road, Halesowen



£180,000

Traditional detached house offering lounge, kitchen/ diner, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, drive, front and rear gardens. Halesowen.

Green Lane, Halesowen



This traditional mid terraced property offers the following accommodation lounge, three bedrooms and rear garden. Halesowen.

Aston Road, Tividale



Offers Over£110,000

Semi detached two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, utility, bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Buffery Road, Dudley



Offers Over£60,000

End terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, rear

Tregarron Road, Halesowen





Offers Over£170,000

Detached bungalow to the market. Comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and family bathroom. Halesowen.

Tividale Street, Tipton



Offers Over£100,000

Terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden and allocated parking.

Best Street, Cradley Heath



A four bedroom semi detached house comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, WC, drive/carport, front and rear gardens. Halesowen.

Himley Avenue, Dudley



Offers Over£220,000

An extended detached four bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, two reception rooms with study area and family bathroom

Swan Street, Brierley Hill



Semi detached two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom with seperate Wc. front and rear gardens.

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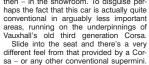
#### By David Banner

Thinking of a MINI or a Fiat 500? Then you also need to be thinking about Vauxhall's trendy little ADAM, the brand's little lifestyle

Here's a fashionable alternative with an encyclopaedic list of options, bidding for individuality beyond the hatchback herd.

The model's title is a nod to Adam Opel, the founder of Vauxhall's European sister company, but is unlikely to start a trend for Biblical car names. It may though, start a trend for buyer personalisation, the like of which the market has never before seen.

With over a million possible specification and trim combinations, the chances of two identical Vauxhall ADAMs ever being produced are statistically quite



then - in the showroom. To disguise per-

different feel from that provided by a Corsa – or any other conventional supermini. The commanding driving position, the big chunky MINI-like wheel, the wide, low glass area. – it all makes you eager to tackle the urban jungle, with the promise of secondary road sportiness beyond.

Not too much mind. There's no really rorty engine in the line-up and the underpinnings are resolutely Corsa-based, not a supermini many would instinctively equate with an especially rewarding drive. Better to simply accept this car for the friendly fashion trinket it is, with the





'The model's title is a nod to Adam Opel, the founder of Vauxhall's European sister company' proviso that the entry-level 70PS 1.2-litre 16v engine does struggle a little with the task of pushing nearly 1.1-tonnes of ADAM up the road with any real zip. As with all the powerplants launched

As with all the powerplants launched with this car, it's a petrol unit, 62mph from rest occupying nearly 15 seconds on the way to a top speed only just over 100mph. Better by far to find only a little more for one of the 1.4s, an 87PS unit that manages 62mph in a far more acceptable 12.5 seconds on the way to 109mph. And a 100PS engine that improves things further to 11.5 seconds and 115mph. Ask for something

a little more hi-tech and the designers will point to the three cylinder 1.0-litre petrol.

Prices start at just over £11,000 for the base 1.2i 16v petrol version, but find the extra few hundred for one of the two petrol 1.4s that are notably less feeble.

There are three main trim levels for the ADAM: Baseline is 'JAM', supposed to be what Vauxhall calls 'fashionable', pay just under £1,500 more to go 'GLAM' for a trim package that's apparently more 'elegant', or pay a further £500 on top of that for the top, and supposedly 'sportier' trim level - 'SLAM'.

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# **Drivetime**



The 2014 Geneva Motor Show will see the première of the new Citroën C1 - a fresh take on a popular model that has sold more than 760,000 examples worldwide since its launch in 2005.

The latest version of Citroën's city car is available in both three and fivedoor versions, as well as a new open-

top body style called Airscape.
A car with a strong personality, delivering an upbeat response to urban mobility requirements, the new Cit-roën C1 reflects the bold renewal of Citroën's C-line.

#### Citroën C1 features:

More design: With dynamic lines and a cheerful front-end gaze, characterised by its headlights, the C1 is an immediate head-turner. Bi-tone versions and brightly coloured interiors underline the playful character and joie de vivre. The new C1 is unmistakably a member of the new Citroën family

Greater comfort: For everyday driving. Agile and nippy, the new C1 marries compact exterior dimensions (just 3.46m), with easy handling and a turning circle of 4.80m

Ride comfort is further improved,

thanks to the C1's exceptional sus pension comfort and impeccable road

handling.

More useful technology: Including the 7" Touch Driver Interface and Mirror Screentechnology, to copy and run smartphone apps from the touch

screen.
The new Citroën C1 can also be fitted with keyless entry and start, as well as a reversing camera and hillstart assist.

Optimised running costs: Weighing just 840kg and available with new-generation petrol engines, the new Citroën C1 ranks among the best in class for fuel consumption.



## **Drivetime**

# New special edition Fiat 500L

#### By Sharon Walters

The Fiat 500L range goes from strength to strength in 2014 with a new special edition, new engine variants and new optional equipment.

The new Fiat 500L Beats Edition blends cutting-edge technology with a cool, urban look, combining the chunky go-anywhere styling of the 500L Trekking with an eye-catching, two-tone, grey/black colour scheme finished in a choice of gloss and matte finishes.

Further styling enhancements include 17in alloy wheels, wheel arch extensions, side skirts and bumper inserts, all finished in black, as well as mirror fairings, front 'whiskers' and the tailgate handle in satin chrome. Red brake callipers and red inserts in the mirror fairings complete

the distinctive "Beats" look.The interior of the Fiat 500L Beats Edition has also been enhanced with automatic dual-zone climate control as standard, as well as a matte-grey dashboard panel and a To-Intalte-grey dashboard panel and a roll at lack at la Black interior pack which includes special black fabric/eco-leather seat upholstery complete with red, embroidered '500' logos on the front backrests. A premium BeatsAudio audio system is also standard, employing the latest Beats by

also standard, employing the latest Beats by Dr Dre technology to provide a rich, immersive listening experience for all occupants. Based around the Fiat 500L Trekking, the new 500L Beats Edition also features the Trekking's revised suspension, mud and snow tyres, Ciby Brake Control and Fiat's Traction+traction control system as standard. Additional features include real electric windows, front fog lights,

electric windows, front fog lights, a touchscreen Uconnect infotain-ment system, automatic headlights, rain sensors and rear privacy glass



The Fiat 500L Beats Edition is available with two petrol engines, the new 120hp 1.4 T-Jet and the 105hp 0.9 TwinAir Turbo, as well as two turbo-diesel power plants: the 105hp 1.6 MultiJet II and new 120hp 1.6 MultiJet II. The EU6-approved, 1.6 MultiJet II tur-

The EUG-approved, 1.6 Multitude II turbo-diesel engine is equipped with a variable geometry turbocharger, developed by Honeywell, and develops 120hp at 3,750 rpm and 320Nm of torque at 1,750 rpm. Top speed increases to 117mph (up from 112mph with the 105hp engine) while the

0-62mph sprint is now dispatched in 10.7 seconds (versus 11.3 seconds). Combined consumption dips only slightly to 61.4mpg

(versus 62.8mpg) while CO2 emissions of 120 g/km (+3g/km) ensure it remains in the same tax and BIK band as the 105hp engine.

The EU6-ready 1.4 T-Jet petrol offers an identical 120hp at 5,000rpm but its maximum 215Nm of torque is available from just 2,500rpm, en-

of torque is available from just 2,500rpm, ensuring a broad and flexible performance range.

Top speed is 117mph while the 0-62mph dash takes just 10.2 seconds, with combined-cycle fuel economy figure of 40.9mpg and CO2 emissions of 159 g/km.

These new engines will go on sale in the UK in

mid-March with pricing to be announced shortly. Finally, for 2014, two new packs are now available on the FIAT 500L and 500L MPW.

The new "Premium Pack" offers £1,720-worth of luxury equipment for just £1,300. Full beige or grey leather upholstery; a ParkView rear parking camera and a five-inch touchscreen Uconnect system with DAB and satellite navigation are all included in the pack,

which is offered on the Lounge model only. In addition, a new "Living Pack", comprising heated front seats, height adjustable front seats, driver- and passenger-seat adjustable lumbar support and a front arm rest, can be combined with the Premium Pack for an additional £450 – this delivers a saving for the custome of £125 versus the standard combined price of these two options.







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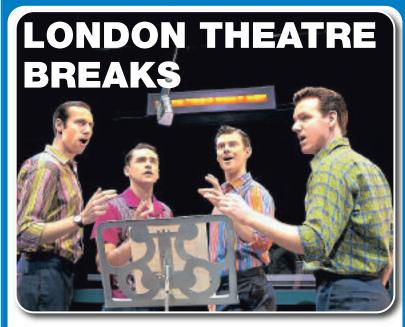
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N SHARMA, Director of Legal and Governance Services Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

mechanics

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Waterfall Lane, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Prohibition of Driving) Order 2014

(Temporary Prohibition of Driving) trace 2014

NOTICE IS HERBOY MOVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell intends in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order, the effect of which will be temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding into Waterfall Lane from the bijunction with Perry Park Road.

The alternative route for vehicles travelling northbound will be diverted via Perry Park Road, Highfield Road and Waterfall Lane.

- Any queries about the works should be directed to Steve Wall of Sandwell Metropolita Borough Council on 0845 589 7518 and those relating to the effect of the Order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Highway Services on 0845 359 7518. led this 27th day of February 2014

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#### SPORT

## Side win away as place race heats up

STOURBRIDGE travelled to fellow Wolverhampton Division contenders and defending champions St

Division contenders and defending champions St George's.

The late availability of Jeremy Fallowfield meant Stourbridge were close to full strength. St George's were missing two key players. First to finish was grandmaster Keith Arkell on board one who overwhelmed his opponent.

This was soon followed by a win for the aggressive playing Greg Dyett. Meanwhile Jeremy Fallowfield on board two had to settle for a draw. On board six Dave Scriven was surprised when his opponent resigned to give Stourbridge the match. Nick Fallowfield showed great skill to win a "bishops of opposite colours ending" which would often be considered drawn even though Nic was a pawn up.

This was followed by a win for Nick Arkell in a time scramble. So we won the match 5.5.0.5 and we are still very much in the hunt for the title.

On Wednesday the BDCL 3 team faced Halesowen and

On Wednesday the BDCL 3 team faced Halesowen and won the match 3.5 to 1.5.

## Hutton's exile due to wages

BOSS Paul Lambert has lifted the lid on Alan Hutton's Villa exile and admitted he has been frozen out because he earns too much. The claret and blues chief has confirmed for the first time financial reasons are

time financial reasons are behind Hutton's banish-

The Scotland interna-

ment.

The Scotland international – who has been called up by Gordon Strachan to face Poland next month – is on £40,000-a-week at Villa Park.

Hutton has not played for Lambert at Villa with his last appearance coming under Alex McLeish at Tottenham in May, 2012.

And Lambert admitted the right-back, whose contract expires in 2015, will not play again as they look to get him off the wage bill.

"It will be unlikely he will ever play here – he knows that. We need to get the structure down to a level," said Lambert, who has also shipped out big earners Stephen Ireland and Darren Bort phen Ireland and Darren Bent

# Relegation fear after another defeat

OHHC 1sts 3
South Nottingham 4
OLD Halesonians Hockey Club agonisingly lost four goals to three against South Nottingham, as they suffered their second defeat in as many weeks.
Hales have fallen to sixth in the table, with the team facing the final five games of the season with the prospect of relegation staring at them.

They are now just four points from the drop, as South Nottingham closed the gap in Midlands

the visitors put themselves 1-0 up after they dominated possession in the early exchanges keeping any attack from OHHC at bay.

The hosts were struggling to find their feet, but a goal from striker Tom Bulteel put the game back on an equal footing.

Prior to the half time break, Hales put more pressure upon the South Nottingham defence and Paul Woodall scored to give the Halesowen side a 2-1 lead to take them into the half time break in higher spirits.

higher spirits.
In the second half Hales never Division 1. In the second man manes never Old Hales started poorly and really got up to speed, despite **Hockey** 

leading the game, and South Not-tingham seized the opportunity to take some points from the game. The visitors scored twice in

The visitors scored twice in quick succession to take the lead at 3-2.

However, Halesonian's Graham Knight brought the scores level once again, when he received the ball and turned quickly to shoot, catching the South Nottingham keeper off-guard and putting the ball into the back of the net.

While it was drawn at 3-3, the

game was still anyone's for the taking, and the visitors were able to take advantage from some slack defending from Hales when their striker was unmarked in the cir-

An unchallenged shot found the net past Hales keeper Steve Charlton which sent the South Nottingham side into a 4-3 lead.
Hales went down to 10 men when tempers flared in the final moments of the game, and Paul Harrold was yellow carded and sent to the sin-bin.
Hales had to attempt a comeback with being a player short

back with being a player short

and despite throwing everything forward, they were unable to find that extra goal to grab another equaliser.
Following back-to-back defeats, Hales will travel to local rivals Stourport this Saturday, 2pm push back at Stourport Sports Club, as they try to restore their good form.
Other Results:
Worcester 0 OHHC Ladies 1sts 3
Stourport 4
OHHC Ladies 2nds 2
OHHC 3rds 0 Lichfield 3
Edgbaston 3 OHHC 4ths 1

Edgbaston 3 OHHC 4ths 1

## Unbeaten Khalsa comeback for a draw

Bustleholme 2 Sporting Khalsa 2 KHALSA'S unbeaten run in the league continued, but their 11-match winning but their 11-match winning streak came to end after having to share the points with relegation threatened Bustleholme at Tipton Sports Academy.

The first chance of the game fell to Mark Habbershaw who somehow missed the ball with an open goal from five yards out.

Liam Hughes showed why he's such a threat in front of goal as he slotted the

of goal as he slotted the ball past the keeper to put Khalsa ahead in the 17th

Khalsa ahead in the 17th minute.

In the 25th minute Bustleholme were awarded a penalty but Kisiel Mariusz saved. Bustleholme got a deserved equalisier in the 40th minute through Jermaine Macfarlane.

Ten minutes into the second half Jermaine Macfarlane scored again to put Bustleholme ahead.

From then on Khalsa sparked into life and eventually after several great

sparked into life and even-tually after several great chances Hayden Williams equalised with a header from a corner with 20 min-utes left in the game. But Some great defending de-nied Khalsa the win.

## Olsson's warning on targets

DEFENDER Jonas Olsson has warned Albion that tar get-setting could distract them from their survival

The Sweden international insists the Baggies must focus only on their next match against Manchester United – or risk derailing their bid to avoid a drop.

Boss Pepe Mel and cap-tain Chris Brunt claimed last week that the Baggies need at least four wins from their remaining games to stay in the top flight. But Olsson said: "We want to be safe as soon as possible and if you look at it like that you if you look at it like that you approach games differently. If you're targeting four wins you maybe go into a game thinking 'we need to win this one' you go for it and you open up and you end up losing the game.

"We just need to concentrate on our bit and hopefully we won't be depending on other results."."

# **Yeltz win leaves them** looking like champions

Halesowen 2 Rushall 1

THIS was a top the league clash between the two best teams in it with them both looking to finish the season on top.

With the wind against the home side for the first half Halesowen started brightly and had the clear chances to score but the opening goal eluded them for some time.

Halesowen's Sophie Richards came close where the ball rolled across the line but didn't find its way into

but didn't find its way into the net, Her team mate Rachel Letford had a fantastic op-portunity to break the dead-lock with a one-on-one with the keeper only to see the shot go just wide.

However with numerous chances missed Rushall's confidence grew and they started attacking the Yeltz

Halesowen took the lead with some great work by Sarah Hammil looping the ball high where it hit the inside of the crossbar and crossed the line on the 20th minute

minute.

Rushall straight away were looking for the equaliser and pressed the Yeltz' goal creating several corners for the visitors.

However, these were defended by what is considered to be the best defence in the league.

Rushall scored with a goal kick which took sev-eral bounces before finding their striker and she made no mistake in putting it into the back of Halesowen's net.

#### Football

In the second half the advantage was clearly with the home side.

Halesowen were pressing to get the winning goa.l At least once they came close but the ball rebounded off an upright.

The Yeltz Ladies were

then awarded a penalty but Richards wasted the oppor-tunity and put the ball over

tunity and put the ball over the cross bar.

With the clock running down and just five minutes left Rachel Letford collected the ball on the wing and leaving the left back for dead approached the keeper.

Then with a powerful shot the keeper could nothing other than parry it into the empty net,

Halesowen were now fully in control of the game and they kept possession until the final whistle.

Manager Scott Mckee said: "It was a great perfor-mance from the Yeltz side and the effort was fantastic.

"I thought we deserved the game and we are look-ing good for finishing cham-pions," he added.



Rachel Letford's team mates congratulate her on scoring for the Yetlz Ladies against Rushall



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# grip on the game loosen

Leics 37 Halesonians 25 AFTER a four week lay off expectations were high from both supporters and players in South Leicestershire. For the first 25 minutes

For the first 25 minutes it was all Halesonians with some champagne rugby. Sharp, incisive, fast-paced, hard-tackling and possibly some of the best passages of play this season.

Despite this the home side took the lead from a Hales attack where a loose ball was collected by their impressive winger who

impressive winger who sprinted 80 yards, crashing through numerous tackles to score. Then during the first 25 minutes, with the help of the Hales team, cen-tre Andy Robinson scored and converted and excel-lent try.

lent try.

Eight minutes later Luke
Smith fed Andy Robinson
for his second try and conversion of the game.

Continued pressure by
the visitors forced two penalties. Robinson converted.

the visitors forced two penalties, Robinson converted both. Leicester then started their comeback before half time with a well worked try. In The second halfAndy Robinson broke through to feed Luke Smith who passed to the opposition who scored a gifted try. During a disappointing second period of Hales play the home side seemed to score at will, three more tries and two conversions followed by two penalties. Luke Smith got a consolation try for Hales.

## **Jordanne gets** three titles

HALESOWEN sports star Jordanne Whiley made it three wheelchair tennis tithree wheelchair tennis ti-tles from four events over the weekend after complet-ing back-to-back tourna-ments in Britain with vic-tory in the women's doubles at the inaugural USN Bol-ton Arena Indoor.

whiley retained her women's singles title at the North West Challenge in Preston in mid-February, where she dropped five games in three singles matches and partnered Colombia's Johana Martinez to win the doubles win the doubles.

Whiley made it back-to-back doubles titles when she teamed up with Lucy Shuker in Bolton. The duo were awarded a walkover in the final when their German opponents withdrew

It was Whiley's third doubles title in a row after she

# Hales let Crunch talks are on cards for Albion's boss I nearly

PEPE MEL will hold crunch talks with his Albion squad this week after players raised concerns over the Baggies boss' survival

concerns over the Baggies boss survival tactics.

Mel is fighting to win over Albion's stars as he prepares for a vital 10 days that could make or break the club's top-flight future.

A series of meetings are now planned at the training ground this week involving players and coaches to draw up a new 'battle plan' for the remaining 11 games of the Premier League campaign.

Senior squad members are understood to have raised concerns at Mel's methods as the Spaniard searches for his first win as

Football

Hawthorns head coach. And the 50-year-old now faces a crucial week-and-a-half ahead of the Baggies' return to action against Man-chester United on March 8, during which he faces a major task to convince sceptical stars he can halt their relegation slide.

The players' worries, which have been confirmed by several sources close to the Albion dressing room, concern Mel's inability to communicate tactics and his style of play.

The former Real Betis coach arrived at The Hawthorns promising a high-pressing

approach based on his experiences in Spain but he has already compromised following a meeting with players, who were concerned that the Baggies squad was ill-suited to the new approach.

But worries are reported to hav resurfaced during last week's six-day training

faced during last week's six-day training camp in Spain.

The Hawthorns hierarchy have now become aware of the players' issues. One source said: "In training, the players are doing things and they don't know whether they are doing them right or wrong. Pepe has Keith Downing there with him and if there's a problem he should be putting

across what he wants to Keith, so he can relay that to the players. But that isn't always happening."

His limited English is a source of worry despite the recent arrival of former Betis coach David Gomez, who speaks good English, and the influence of Spanish speaker Dave McDonough, Albion's director of technical performance and scouting, who played a key role in Mel's recruitment and has become a more regular figure on the training ground. Another source said: "The players like Pepe but they are worried that he doesn't have enough experience of the English game."

# quit says Varnish

JESS VARNISH says she feared for her career as she plots her World Championships assault.

ships assault.

The Halesowen Cycling Club ace is in Cali, Colombia, ahead of the start of the Track Cycling World Championships. Varnish missed the Championships in Minsk last year with a back injury which sidelined her for five months.

She is likely to partner.

her for five months.

She is likely to partner
Becky James in the team
sprint after James won the
keirin and sprint in Belarus,
while also claiming bronze
with Victoria Williamson in
the team sprint.

But Varnish admitted,
after a torn disc ruined
2013, she worried she may
never return.

"It got to the point where

"It got to the point where I thought my career might be finished You feel like you lose your identity," said the 23-year-old.
"I worried all the time that I would not get back to where I was. I used to get on my bike and try to put my hands on the handlebars and I thought, 'I don't want to do this, it is too painful'.
"I appreciate it more now, and to be in the team and going to the World Championships. I hadn't missed a Worlds since 2008."

#### **Saddlers rematch** tickets sell out

WOLVES fans have again showed their commitment to the cause after the club announced their allocation for next month's derby at Walsall is already sold out. The last of the 3,400 available tickets for the game at the Banks's Stadium on March 8 were snapped up last week. Walsallwon the first league meeting beginning the same and the same and the same at the same and t first league meeting be tween the sides 1-0.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, February 27.

# ING PRICE OF MISSED CHANCES

Halesowen Town 0 Chasetown 0

**HALESOWEN** and Chasetown shared the points although the local derby stalemate still provided plenty of goal-scoring chances.

Ben Haseley struck the Chasetown side net-ting after goalkeeper Ryan Price turned away Iyseden Christie's 5th minute header but in-

form Chasetown soon countered when Joe Halsall's tricky shot was grabbed by home goalkeeper Matt

goalkeeper Matt Sargeant.
Haseley rifled the ball into the Chasetown side-netting again at the far post in the 29th minute but the visitors responded once more when Tesfa Robinson screwed a 36th minute shot which just went wide of the mark. At the start of the second half Chasetown goalkeeper Price denied Christie twice within a minute holding off both his attempts to open the scoring in the match.

#### Clutched

Price also pulled off a fine 52nd minute save after Christie headed on Tom Tonks' long throw-in and then clutched the ball above head height after Christie beat Robinson to a long ball

beat Robinson to a long ball which he tried to send into the back of the net.

But it was the Scholars who went mightily close to breaking the deadlock on the hour when a right wing free-kick bounced around in the home six-yard box and Robinson fired over the bar from close range.

Yeltz defender Kris Green then came to the home res-

also won the women's dou-bles at the Australian Open.

Football

goal-line clearance after Jazz Luckie worked free down the right in the 65th minute and looked like he was on to put the ball into the goal.

Late on, Haseley misfired again for Halesowen on on a couple of occasions when he was in front of goal and Asa Charlton drilled just wide with five minutes remaining as the second-placed hosts sought a vital winner but nothing came and it was looking more and more likely that the deadlock would remain.

But in injury time the Yeltz defence needed to hold firm against two potentially dangerous Chasetown freekicks. The Yeltz managed to see the game out without letting The Scholars grah

to see the game out without letting The Scholars grab the points.

Halesowen Town: Halesowen Town:
Sargeant; Green, Charlton,
Forde, Hull (c), Tilt, Griffiths (MacKenzie 83), Tonks
(Lait 78), Christie, Haseley
(Penney 86), Turner.
Unused Subs: Kelly,
Pearson (GK).
Chasetown: Price;
Evans, Beckett, Halsall,
Robinson, Teesdale (c), Butler (Gould 60), Bragoli, Wellecomme, Luckie (Anslow

lecomme, Luckie (Anslow 78), Brown. **Unused Subs:** Smith, Bottomer, Birt.



Aerial battle as the Yeltz players look to keep Chasetown under control during the scoreless match

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